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Thursday, June 12 to Wednesday, June 18, 2014

It's like there's NO TAX‡ EVENT

ON MAJOR APPLIANCES

Valid on any single or combined in-store or online appliance purchase of **$299 or more** (before taxes).

While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks.
‡See inside for details.

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for appliance deals

THE HOME DEPOT®

THIS WEEK ONLY
Thursday, June 12 to
Wednesday, June 18, 2014

All appliances are subject to an additional delivery fee.♦

▼ OPTIONAL PEDESTALS SOLD SEPARATELY

It's like there's **NO TAX**‡ **EVENT** ON **MAJOR APPLIANCES**
Valid on any single or combined in-store or online appliance purchase of **$299 or more** (before taxes).

LG

$1496‡ for the pair

LG Pair
4.6 Cu. Ft. Washer MODEL WM3050CW
(1000722821) **$798‡**
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(1000722823) **$698‡**

Whirlpool

$1762‡ for the pair

WHIRLPOOL® Pair
5.5 Cu. Ft. Washer
MODEL WTW8500BC
(1000727985) **$940‡**
7.6 Cu. Ft. Dryer with Steam MODEL YWED8500BC
(1000727987) **$822‡**

SAMSUNG

$1446‡ for the pair

SAMSUNG Pair
5.2 Cu. Ft. Washer
MODEL WA45H7000AW
(1000792499) **$778‡**
7.4 Cu. Ft. Dryer
MODEL DV45H7000EW
(1000792475) **$668‡**

SAMSUNG

$2488‡

SAMSUNG
28 Cu. Ft.
36" Refrigerator
MODEL RF28HFEDBSR
(1000789316)

MAYTAG

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MAYTAG®
24.8 Cu. Ft.
36" Refrigerator
MODEL MFF2558VEM
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LG

$1722‡

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MODEL LFC24786ST
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MODEL A8RXCGFXW
(1000667062)

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SAMSUNG 5.9 Cu. Ft. Self-Clean
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MODEL NE595R0ABSR (1000652646)

GE

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MODEL JCB830SFSS (1000718323)

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SAMSUNG WaterWall™ Dishwasher
MODEL DW80H9930US (1000795010)

GE

$698‡

GE® Dishwasher
MODEL GDF610SSFSS
(1000727852)

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‡Amount equivalent to the applicable sales tax will be deducted from the price shown. Taxes then calculated and applied to resulting price to determine price payable. Delivery fee extra.♦ Offer valid on Special Order. Offer includes already reduced clearance floor models. Offer excludes GE Café™, GE Monogram® and Capital brands. Offer not valid on range hoods, small appliances, floor care and home comfort products. While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks. See below for details.[1] ♦Appliances available through Special Order, direct-to-home delivery only. Delivery fee applies starting at $49.98 plus applicable taxes. Restrictions and additional charges may apply. Ask in-store or call 1-800-668-2266 for details.

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For more appliance information or to shop online visit **homedepot.ca/appliances**

Type in the product number 1000654204 SEARCH ▶

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[1]**Offer valid at The Home Depot Canada.** Not valid in combination with any other offer. Some exceptions may apply. Selection varies by store and quantities are limited. Offer valid to Canadian residents only. No substitutions or rain checks. See Store Associate or Special Services Desk for details or visit homedepot.ca. **We reserve the right** to limit quantities to the amount reasonable for homeowners and our regular contractor customers. **No interest if paid in full within 12 months*** on any single or combined in-store or online Appliance purchase of $299 or more (including taxes) when you use your Home Depot® Consumer Credit Card.† Payments required. *Interest accrues from the purchase transaction date and will be waived if each minimum monthly payment required during the promotional period is paid in full by its payment due date and the purchase price is paid in full by the plan expiration date. If not, interest will be charged at an Interest Rate of 28.8% per annum in accordance with the Consumer Cardholder Agreement.
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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 29
SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Thursday, June 12, 2014

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TORONTO metro®

Friday's Jackpot
$10 MILLION estimated
Lotto MAX

Full-scale frenzy for football fans

WORLD CUP COVERAGE ON PAGES 14, 47, 50 & 51

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VAN DYKE

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

It's just an election; why so serious?

Parties swap last-minute claims of dirty tricks, like a flyer that depicts Hudak as the Joker PAGE 8

Will Sony Centre CEO face music?

Departing boss raked in over half-million via questionable deal PAGE 3

He's not just beating a dead hearse

Morty, featured on TV's Degrassi, deserves to be revived: Owner PAGE 6

F tha police — uh, well, some of 'em

Ice Cube qualifies his stance now that he's playing a cop again in 22 Jump Street PAGE 26

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Decision Ontario

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Sony Centre CEO under fire over expenses, fees paid

Dan Brambilla. Departing boss was paid $572K as a consultant on a scrapped project and another $8K for the rights to promote his own wedding, auditor report says

Sony Centre CEO Dan Brambilla with his new bride Nancy in 2010. CONTRIBUTED

The departing boss of the Sony Centre expensed a list of troubling items — including boozy lunches with staff — was paid $572,000 as a consultant on a scrapped project and another $8,000 for the rights to promote his own wedding.

CEO Dan Brambilla, who is departing at the end of the month, has once again been drawn into a growing scandal over the board in control of the centre, which is at arms-length from the city. Additional findings in an audit of the centre released Wednesday point specifically to concerns over reimbursements the centre made to Brambilla.

A response from "Sony Centre management" defending the expenditures was also released Wednesday — though it's not clear who specifically wrote the document.

The findings come after an auditor general's report released in April found issues with the management of the Sony Centre's redevelopment that saw costs rise to $40 million under the previous board.

Last week, all eight civilian members of the board who took over in 2011 resigned over concerns oversight of the theatre had become too "politicized."

According to the audit findings, there were various types of troubling expenditures by CEO Dan Brambilla:

• In 2002, after Brambilla assumed the role of CEO, he was paid $572,000 through his personal company Stage By Stage Holdings as a consultant on what was to be a new facility called CityCentre. That payment was approved by the board, according to the audit. The plan — which in total cost $3.4 million to produce — was eventually scrapped.

• In 2010, Brambilla and his wife were married at the Sony Centre in a $15,000 affair which he paid in full in 2011. Brambilla's company was paid $7,910 for the rights to promote the wedding as a "beta test" for holding such events at the centre. There was no specific board approval for that payment, according to the audit.

• Between 2007 and 2011, Brambilla expensed $1,250 in airfare and event tickets for his wife while on business trips. He also expensed political fundraising events to a total of $4,650. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Debate behind closed doors

On Wednesday, councillors were debating an item behind closed doors on whether to enact temporary control measures that would see city staff and city councillors take control of the board until it can be replaced following the October election.

- A new CEO has not yet been selected to head the centre.

Six TTC employees, ex-employees charged

Police have charged and issued warrants for theft and fraud against six current and former TTC employees.

They are alleged to have bought tools and other supplies through their jobs for their personal use and resale.

Some of the six are also charged in connection with a plan to set up a company to bid on a TTC contract worth millions, said Det. Royce MacDonald of 55 Division.

"The first incident of this came up in 2008. It just was dealt with at that point. As a result, some more stuff came to light around October, November last year," he said.

The charges are the result of a joint investigation between the TTC and Toronto police, said MacDonald.

"It is alleged that over the course of several years, these individuals stole, defrauded and attempted to circumvent TTC purchasing policies and authorities, harming our collective reputation and the public's trust," CEO Andy Byford wrote to the system's 13,000 employees on Wednesday.

He announced mandatory ethics training for all supervisory and management staff, and a forensic audit of the system's contract protocols, signing authority and procurement practices.

The scandal is the second in two years at the TTC. In January 2013, eight transit enforcement officers were fired and five of them arrested and charged in a fraudulent ticketing scam.

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Mississauga

McCallion urged to give up keys after another crash

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion has been involved in her second car crash in just more than a month, renewing calls for the 93-year-old to stop driving.

The crash occurred June 7 in Streetsville, not far from her home.

Hazel McCallion
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

According to police and paramedics sources, it happened in the late afternoon as the mayor was turning from Ontario Street onto Queen Street. Her car collided with a Toyota.

An officer described the crash as "very minor."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Contract

Etobicoke garbage pickup moving to new firm

Toronto is switching to a new contractor to pick up garbage in Etobicoke after problems emerged with GFL Environmental, the company that has been doing the work since December 2011.

Staff have recommended that Miller Waste Systems get the contract to collect garbage from 65,400 Etobicoke households for up to eight years beginning July 2015, at a cost to the city of $88.6 million.

GFL was doing garbage pickup in Etobicoke before it began a broader contract to cover all of the western side of the city.

Earlier this year, the provincial government downgraded GFL's safety rating to "conditional" from "satisfactory" after a spate of vehicle incidents when GFL first started collecting west to Yonge Street.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vote

City mulls email deal with Microsoft

The city is planning a $2-million move to a new email system after two decades of using a company you probably haven't even heard of since the 1990s.

Since 1998, the city has used Novell Inc.'s GroupWise email system.

Next week, the government management committee will vote on whether to ask council to approve a sole-source contract with Microsoft to implement the "critical" migration to the software giant's Exchange system.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Health app cuts through language barrier

Tech. Team behind iamsick.ca seeking funding for service that connects people with medical resources

Trying to locate the closest clinic or pharmacy where someone can serve you in your mother tongue is now just a click away on your smartphone or computer, with a free website and app created by three U of T students.

With the success of the soft launch of iamsick.ca, the team — Ryan Doherty, Sherry-Lynn Lee and Audrey Kuo — is hoping to raise $9,000 by crowdfunding on indiegogo.com to expand the service. It would cost $90,000 to make the project national.

The project, currently featuring Ontario-specific information only, has won accolades from service providers in the province, a magnet for newcomers, many with language needs when it comes to accessing care and comprehending complex health problems, procedures and treatment.

"Translation can be expensive and not accessible. It's common to have children of immigrants translating for their parents on medical issues," said Dr. Meb Rashid, clinical director of the Crossroads Clinic at Women's College Hospital.

The iamsick.ca apps on iPhone, Android and Blackberry 10 have been downloaded over 5,000 times to date.

This spring, the guide has installed a language filter that can show nearby pharmacists or physicians who speak one of 25 languages from Arabic to Chinese to Russian.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Details

The online guide works like a GPS device that helps patients locate nearby clinics, pharmacies and hospitals. In Stage 1 of the project, only information pertaining to locations and opening hours was made available.

Restaurant could pay a pretty price for its pork

Jesse Grasso, executive chef at the Black Hoof on Dundas Street West, with a dish of the rare pork carpaccio, a thinly sliced delicacy that breaks Ontario public health laws. If inspected, the eatery could be summoned to court and face a $5,000 charge for each day it serves the delicacy.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Oshawa man starts crowdfunding campaign to revive famous hearse

Degrassi past. Eli Goldsworthy, a character in the TV show, crashed Morty the Hearse

When Bill Steele set eyes on Morty the Hearse, he knew he'd found something special. It had a body bag in the back seat, rust on the undercarriage and a 50-year history that includes carrying dead people in Grand Bank, N.L., and featuring prominently on the Canadian teen drama Degrassi.

"I like the morbid-type thing of it and the beauty of the vehicle itself," said Steele, 47, a heavy equipment operator who's running for a council seat this year in Oshawa.

Steele recently bought Morty, though he'd prefer not to say for what price (except that a bottle of rum was part of the deal).

Steele said he'd been eyeing the 1962 Cadillac Meteor Miller hearse for months as it sat outside a special effects studio near where he works in the Port Lands. He didn't know about the car's TV connection until after the deal went down.

"I come home and I find out it's called Morty," he said. "There's a whole friggin' (web) page and all these young people were upset that this character Eli had crashed it."

Steele was referring to Eli Goldsworthy, a moody and lovelorn high school student who drives Morty the Hearse in Season 10 of Degrassi, which aired in 2010 and 2011. In cringe-worthy teenage boy fashion, he crashes Morty in a desperate and misguided attempt to rescue his foundering relationship with a girl.

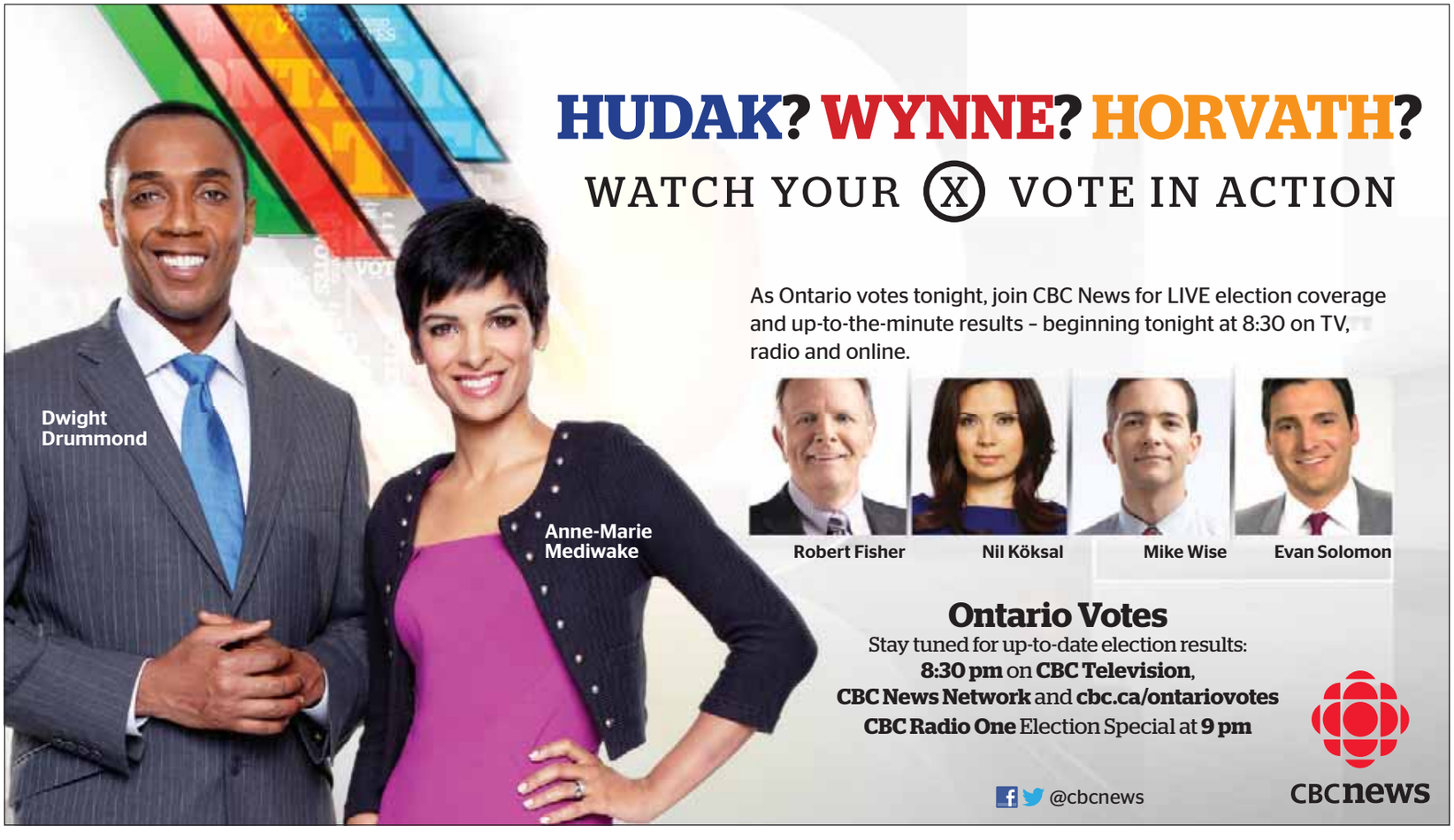
Followers of the show created a "R.I.P. Morty the Hearse" Facebook page, while a Degrassi fan site has a dedicated page to outline the car's role in the show.

Bill Steele is on a crowdfunding campaign to revamp Morty the old hearse from Season 10 of Degrassi. KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When Steele learned of the car's famous past, he started a crowdfunding campaign to revamp Morty and get it back on the road.

"I'd like to do a little campaigning in the hearse," Steele said, assuming he has it fixed up come election day in October. "I think it'll bring some attention."

And he says he has the perfect slogan: "Oshawa's Not Dead." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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See dealer for details. ♦♦$1,350/$400 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) 2014 Chevrolet Equinox/2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Double Cab (without PDU) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Such credit is available only for cash purchase and by selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. ▼/♦/♦♦/***Freight & PDI ($1,600/$1,600/$1,695), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees not included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2014 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. 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Comparison based on Natural Resources Canada's 2014 Fuel Consumption Guide. ††2014 Cruze LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $28,489. 2014 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $37,539. 2014 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4WD MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $51,249. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ¥Offer available to retail customers in Canada between June 3, 2014 and June 30, 2014. Applies to new 2014 Chevrolet, Buick and GMC models, 2015 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra HD Pickups and 2015 GMC Yukon, Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban models, at participating dealers in Canada, excluding Chevrolet Corvette and all Cadillac models. Employee price excludes license, insurance, registration, dealer administration fee, fees associated with filing at movable property registry/PPSA fees, duties, and taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer order or trade may be required. Offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. 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Gloves come off as campaign ends

Decision Ontario

'Terrorist literature' and sign skirmishes.

War-room missives fly as leaders of three main parties make final push for votes

Accusations of dirty tricks flew fast and furious Wednesday on the Ontario campaign trail, with just hours to go before voters decide if the minority Liberals should continue to govern after more than 10 years in power.

The Progressive Conservatives were incensed about a Liberal flyer substituting Tory Leader Tim Hudak as the psychopathic Joker from the Batman movie The Dark Knight, calling it "terrorist literature" and a desperate attempt to scare voters.

The flyer, which was distributed in a Liberal riding north of Toronto, depicts Hudak laughing as he walks away from an exploding hospital. The question beneath the picture asks voters if they trust Hudak and the Ontario PCs with their future.

"I haven't seen the piece of literature, but this kind of campaigning is not acceptable," Premier Kathleen Wynne said during a stop at a Toronto elementary school.

"It's not consistent with what we have been doing throughout this campaign."

The stakes are high as public opinion polls have suggested the Liberals and Tories are in a virtual tie ahead of Thursday's vote. Wynne, who's been barraged by accusations of corruption from her rivals, is using those numbers to drive home her point that NDP supporters must turn to the Liberals to stop a Hudak government that plans to cut 100,000 public sector jobs.

Wynne is running a "campaign of fear," the Tory leader said during a campaign stop in Mississauga, west of Toronto.

"I know that Kathleen Wynne began her day yesterday in a school, saying that our plan is going to hurt children, and she finished the day yesterday with an over-the-top flyer with me laughing in front of a hospital blowing up," he said.

Mea culpa

Steven Del Duca, who holds the riding of Vaughan, apologized to Tim Hudak over Twitter for the flyer, saying it "was a mistake for which I am sorry."

"When you go that far, when you go over the top that much just to hang on to your job, it's time to pack it in — you're no longer there for the public interest, you are there for yourself."

But the finger-pointing didn't end there. Allegations of Liberals illegally taking down a Tory campaign sign were countered with recriminations that the Tories had broken the rules by putting the sign up in the first place.

Tory complaints that the Liberals were breaking the media blackout on partisan ads were met with outrage from the Liberal camp, which said it had run them by election officials in advance.

There were also accusations of deliberate voter suppression efforts on Tuesday after dozens of voters in London and some in Ottawa received letters directing them to the wrong polling station.

The Tories said it was an innocent mixup and apologized, with Hudak saying they had just made mistakes. But the Liberals have filed a complaint with Elections Ontario.

A white truck playing Wynne's leadership victory speech with Dalton McGuinty on a continuous loop stopped at all her campaign events Wednesday, trying to highlight her ties to her former boss and the spending scandals that preceded his resignation.

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath said the Liberal-Tory shootouts show "a little bit of last-ditch desperation."

"There's no doubt that there has been that tenor in the last couple of days, but I think the stakes are high," she said in Oshawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Amusing'

The man behind the Hudak flyer

Sometimes when Ishmael Daro needs a stress reliever at work, he fires up Photoshop.

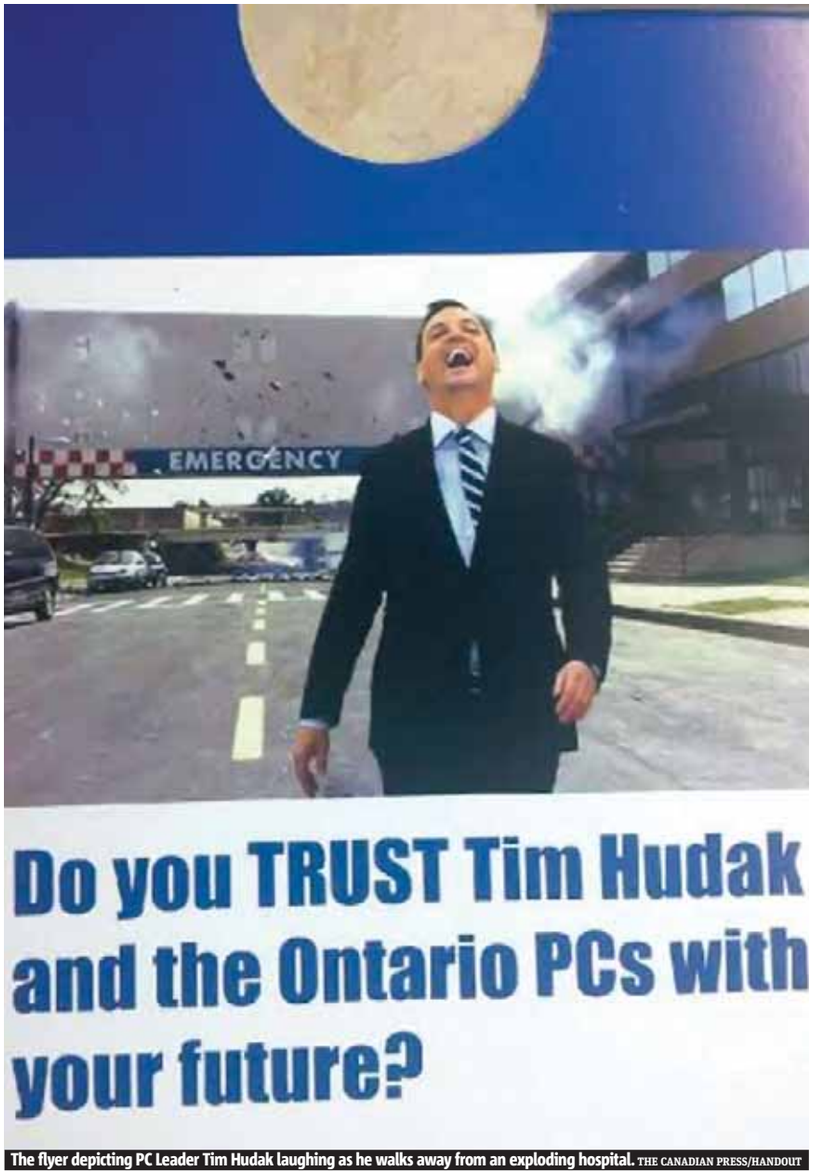
But the 25-year-old University of Saskatchewan graduate, now a web editor for Postmedia in Toronto, never expected his mash-up of Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak with a scene from The Dark Knight to cause such a stir.

"I just found the whole thing amusing," Daro tells Metro. "The chances of me — somebody from Saskatoon who's only been here a year — in any way influencing or having any input in the election campaign in Ontario."

Daro said he was alerted to a Liberal attack ad on Tuesday night that was circulated around Vaughan north of Toronto before the province's general election.

The flyer features his Photoshopped picture of Hudak — originally a Canadian Press photo — walking away from an exploding hospital as though the politician were the terroristic Joker villain from the 2008 Batman movie.

Although Daro never intended to make a political point, he said this blunder could illustrate "the pressures of the modern campaign of trying to be fun and interesting all the time." JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON



The flyer depicting PC Leader Tim Hudak laughing as he walks away from an exploding hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

Vote 411. Things to know before going to the polls

- If your name is on the voters' list, or you have a certificate to vote, there are several pieces of identification you can use to receive a ballot at your local polling station, but the identification must show the name matching your name on the list.
- If your name is not on the voters' list, you need a certificate to vote, or you need to change your personal information, then you must show one piece of identification that includes both your name and residential address.
- Ontarians will head to the polls from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time, when polls close.
- Elections Ontario has a handy link online, where you can simply plug in your postal code or address to find out where your voting location is.
- Before the legislature was dissolved, the minority Liberals held 48 seats, including Speaker Dave Levac, the Tories had 37, the New Democrats had 21, and there was one vacancy.
- The last provincial election in Ontario was Oct. 6, 2011.
- There are 107 provincial ridings.
- 20 parties fielded candidates in this election.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Participation. Help from shelters lets homeless vote

Martin Davis's get-out-the-vote campaign faces a steeper challenge than most: The prospective voters are homeless.

"We do everything that we can here just to enable the guys to participate in the electoral process," said Davis, the program manager at the Scott Mission shelter on Spadina, holding up a blank Certificate of Identity and Residence form.

If a homeless person has been using the shelter's services for five weeks in the run-up to the provincial election, Davis can fill out the document to serve as their proof of residence, allowing them to cast a ballot.

So far, in the lead-up to this provincial election, there have been no takers.

In the last provincial election, in 2011, 173 facilities in the province, such as food banks and shelters, were authorized to issue Certificate of Identity and Residence forms, according to Michelle Goland, a spokesperson for Elections Ontario. People unable to leave a shelter for security reasons are also able to vote by mail-in ballot. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Thursday, June 12

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All men's CHAPS

Plus, save 50%

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Father's Day is Sunday, June 15

HUDSON'S BAY

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No rain checks and no price adjustments. No pre-orders or telephone orders. Offer available while quantities last. Cannot be combined with other offers. Selection may vary by store. Savings are off our regular prices unless otherwise specified. Excludes Hudson's Bay Company Collection. See in store for details. **Izod casual clothes** exclude items with 99¢ price endings.

Strippers drugged men to run up credit cards: Cops

Undercover investigation. NYPD allege women devised scheme to take men for at least $200,000

A crew of New York City women who worked as strippers allegedly scammed wealthy men by spiking their drinks with illegal synthetic drugs, then driving them to strip clubs that ran up tens of thousands of dollars on their credit cards while they were too dazed to stop it, authorities said Wednesday.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and New York Police Department investigators arrested four women — all described as professional strippers — earlier this week on charges including grand larceny, assault and forgery.

One of the women was expected to appear in court in Manhattan on Wednesday following appearances Tuesday by the other three, including suspected ringleader Samantha Barbash.

Samantha Barbash is escorted by law enforcement officers following her arrest in New York on June 9. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbash's attorney, Stephen Murphy, said his client denies the charge, and declined further comment.

A strip club manager was also facing potential charges.

An undercover investigation found that the women joined in a scheme to rip off the men by drugging them with the stimulant methylone or other drugs after arranging to meet them at upscale bars in New York and Long Island, authorities said.

The impaired victims were driven to strip clubs, where they were charged for private rooms, expensive meals, drinks and other services, they said.

The men reported waking up in their cars or in hotel rooms with little or no memory of the encounters. Those who tried to dispute the strip club bills received texts from the strippers threatening to go public with their transgressions, authorities said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Jersey. Driver pleads not guilty in accident that injured Tracy Morgan

A truck driver pleaded not guilty Wednesday in the fatal New Jersey Turnpike crash that also injured comedian Tracy Morgan as investigators look into what role his long commute to work played in the accident.

Walmart driver Kevin Roper lived in Georgia, but his job was based in Delaware, National Transport Safety Board spokeswoman Kelly Nantel said.

A criminal complaint alleges Roper hadn't slept for more than 24 hours when he allegedly swerved to avoid slowed traffic and plowed into Morgan's limo on Saturday. Walmart said it believes he was in compliance with federal safety regulations.

A conviction on a death by auto charge carries a five- to 10-year prison sentence.

Morgan suffered a broken femur, a broken nose and several broken ribs. His friend and fellow comedian James McNair was killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York

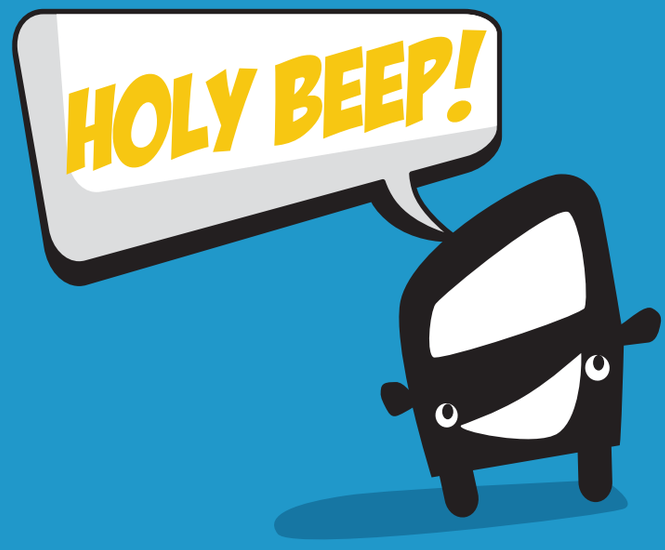
Feds sue firm that forced employees to say 'I love you'

A U.S. federal agency says a health-care firm forced employees to join prayer circles, thank God for having jobs and say "I love you" to co-workers and managers.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a discrimination lawsuit Wednesday against United Health Programs of America and its parent company, Cost Containment Group, saying employees who objected were disciplined or terminated.

It is asking a judge to stop the practices and ensure employees receive back pay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What? Ontario car insurance rates have dropped?



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Syrian woman survives 700-day blockade with books and little food

Under siege. 65-year-old says she only left her building about six times during blockade

Zeinat Akhras and her brother Ayman walk from their home to a church in Homs, Syria, on Thursday.
DUSAN VRANIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Over the course of the 700-day blockade, her world shrunk to her living room and her kitchen. She survived by eating plants and reading books. She refused to look in the mirror, because seeing her withered state might break her spirit.

Zeinat Akhras, a 65-year-old pharmacist, still bears the effects of nearly two years trapped in her home, surrounded by rebel fighters during the government's siege on the central Syrian city of Homs. She's still a wispy 83 pounds, even after gaining eight pounds since the blockade ended in early May with the fall of the rebels in the city.

"Every day, we said it will end tomorrow," Akhras said in a recent interview in her home. "If we counted the number of days, we would have given up."

Homs' Old City, a series of crowded neighbourhoods, was under siege and bombardment in a campaign by government forces to starve out rebels.

Akhras and her two brothers stayed because they feared rebels would seize their building — the fate of other abandoned homes — or would loot the family pharmacy or clothing shop.

In free hours trapped in her home, Akhras devoured books — the Bible and stories of saints, mostly.

Akhras initially didn't know on May 9 that the blockade had been lifted and government troops had entered the neighbourhood. She has no radio and did not listen to the news. In a rare outing to the well across her alleyway, she saw a man who told her, "The army is here."

Surprised, Akhras found a soldier and asked him for bread — still unaware of how skeletal she appeared. The soldier bought her two dozen pieces of pita bread.

"I ate a whole piece of bread myself," she said, her eyes shining. "It tasted like sweets."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battleground

The city of Homs

Homs was one of the first to rise up against the rule of President Bashar Assad with protests in March 2011 turning the city into a battleground. Government forces clamped the seal over the opposition-held districts in early 2012.

Most of the tens of thousands of residents of the areas had by then fled. With the siege dragging on, rebels began deserting as hunger spread, and morale collapsed in late 2013.

Finally, the last few dozen fighters were evacuated in May to areas further north under a ceasefire, and government forces took control of the city.

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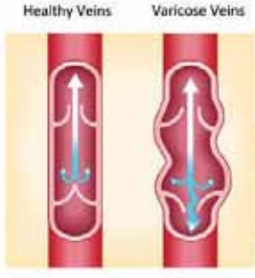

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TABLE IS SET FOR SOCCER FEAST

The wait is over. The day soccer fans have been anxiously waiting for is finally here. The 2014 FIFA World Cup kicks off today and to get you in the game, Metro has you covered with the latest from Brazil.

Paraplegic in exoskeleton gets first kick

The first kick at the World Cup opening ceremony will be made by a paraplegic wearing an Iron Man-like robotic bodysuit controlled by signals from the brain.

Brazilian doctor Miguel Nicolelis led a team of 156 scientists from around the world to create the futuristic exoskeleton, which was designed to enable paralysis victims to walk.

At the World Cup opening ceremony Thursday in Sao Paulo, a paraplegic whose identity has been kept secret will leave behind his or her wheelchair to take to the pitch in the suit and give the tournament's first kick.

Electronic circuits in the device's "feet" will send a return signal to the user via an artificial skin worn on the arm, conveying the sensation of movement and contact.

"Doing a demonstration in a stadium is something very much outside our routine in robotics. It's never been done before," said Nicolelis, a neuroscientist at Duke University.

His voice contains a mix of exhaustion and excitement, the result of 30 years' work, more than 200 scientific papers and countless clinical tests that are nearing a spectacular summit.

Scientists at work at Miguel Nicolelis' lab in Sao Paulo. BIGBONSAI+LENTEVIVAFILMES /AFP

Nicolelis said the idea for the suit came to him in 2002, when scientists were just beginning to explore robotic exoskeletons. "In 2009, after we learned Brazil was hosting the World Cup, they asked me for ideas to show Brazil in a different way than the world usually sees it. That's when I suggested doing a scientific demonstration to teach people that Brazil is investing and has human potential to do things beyond football," he said. AFP

Controversy

Scientist dismisses criticism

Some scientists have criticized Miguel Nicolelis for ditching academic publications in favour of mass media — he posts research updates on Facebook — and the anonymity of the lab for the spotlight of the World Cup stage.

Critics have also questioned the practicality of his research and accused him of hogging an unfair share of the Brazilian government's research budget.

Nicolelis rejects that criticism. "The funding is the same with or without the World Cup. We've received $14 million from the Brazilian government over the last two years. That's approximately four or five times less than what the United States government invests in a mechanical arm," he said.

"I don't see anything wrong with demonstrating a technology for the whole world that has a humanitarian objective," he added. AFP

Belgian fans' cup runneth over with World Cup hopes

Soccer fans from Belgium pose for a photo with a replica of the World Cup trophy on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday. The World Cup soccer tournament starts today. SILVIA IZQUIERDO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA taking fans behind the scenes via Instagram

World Cup organizers have arrived on the photo-sharing platform just ahead of the opening match. The FIFAWorldCup Instagram account promises to show fans exclusive images from behind the scenes at the 12 Brazilian host stadiums.

The new Instagram account is just one way fans can follow the progress of the world's largest soccer competition online. There is also FIFA.com, which will be updated in real time with the latest scores and news from the event.

Twitter users are encouraged to tweet messages and photos on their experience with the hashtags #myworldcup or #CM2014. And soccer buffs can also click like on the official World Cup Facebook page. AFP

Neymar, Rooney and Ronaldo get Nike-designed 3D duffle bags

Nike has designed its first 3D-printed sports bag as the World Cup gets ready for kick-off in Brazil Thursday.

Only three of the limited-edition "Nike Football Rebento" duffle bags have been manufactured, designed to be used during the tournament by star players Neymar Jr., Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Nike Football Rebento duffle bag. COURTESY NIKE FOOTBALL

A 3D-printed leather base provides the structure for the piece, which extends into a laser-sintered nylon "flex" webbing.

The upper section of the bag fits into the base without the need for glue or adhesive.

The bag was designed with matching shin guards created using 3D-printing techniques for maximum impact protection.

The Mercurial FlyLite Guard uses a webbed shock system instead of the traditional foam to keep the design lightweight.

It will be available to purchase from nike.com from July 1. AFP

Apple gets touch of Soccer Fever at its app store

Just in time for the opening ceremony of the 2014 FIFA World Cup, Apple has curated a set of apps, books and more focusing on the beautiful game and on Brazil itself.

Called Football Fever in every country in the world other than the U.S., where it's been called Soccer Fever instead, the section should not only simplify app discovery but help iPhone- and iPad-owning football fans download titles with confidence as they're all from official partners, blue-chip developers or FIFA itself.

In all there are 20 apps and 14 football-themed games, but the new section also includes the best of football music, the best-selling football books, plus football films and documentaries. AFP

Pour him a glass of "thank you very much."

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Family says milkshake sent their boy to ER

'Enough is enough.'
Ottawa-area man wants to know what was in his son's beverage, but McDonald's won't share its internal findings

TREVOR GREENWAY
Metro in Ottawa

A Gatineau, Que., family wants to find out what was in their five-year-old son's McDonald's milkshake, which they allege made the boy's tongue burn, his stomach ache and may have led to him being unable to gain weight.

Jon Hansen says he has been fighting with McDonald's for almost a year to release a report that he says proves a compound was added to the chocolate shake.

McDonald's Canada spokesperson Jason Patuano said the company launched an internal investigation and tested the affected milkshake through an independent lab. He said the results were inconclusive, but would not share the report with Metro.

Pierce Hansen, 6, and his parents Jon Hansen and Jennifer Cameron say a McDonald's milkshake Pierce drank last summer was contaminated. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO IN OTTAWA

The dispute started July 22 last year when Hansen and his family went to the drive-thru at a McDonald's to get french fries and milkshakes. The English-speaking family said they were ridiculed for not speaking French, and when they got their order, Hansen said the fries "had been stomped on" and his young son said his milkshake "tasted funny."

"He said it was peppermint. He didn't mean it was sweet like peppermint, he meant it burned his mouth," said Hansen.

The family brought their child to hospital and was advised to call poison control. Hansen was told to monitor his son and to return to emergency if his condition worsened.

Hansen says his son's tastes have changed and he has been unable to gain weight over the last year. He worries future complications may come up, and without knowing what was in the shake, doctors can't fully assess what, if any, damage has been done.

"Enough is enough. We want to know the truth — it's as simple as that," said Hansen. "The next time it happens, maybe a child dies."

'Sacred' Lac-Mégantic statue returns to base after a year

Auto body shop owner Gilles Perron looks at the restored statue of the Sacred Heart, Wednesday in Lac-Mégantic, Que. The statue, usually sitting in front of the St-Agnes church, was damaged by the towering flames during last July's train derailment that killed 47 people. The statue will be replaced on its base in time for the first-year anniversary events. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Danny

Slain Mountie's police dog will get a new partner

Danny, the RCMP police dog whose partner was killed in last week's shooting rampage, will eventually be teamed up with another handler.

The Mounties say once a new partner is chosen, Danny will spend time bonding with that officer before returning to the RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre in Innisfail, Alta., for a three-week test.

The RCMP say they've received many inquiries from the media and members of the public about Danny's future following the death of Const. Dave Ross.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Const. Dave Ross's dog Danny during the funeral procession on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Commons committee says NDP MPs owe $1.17M

Politics. New Democrats dismiss board's decision as result of 'witch hunt,' vow to take it to court

Government whip and spokesman for the Board of Internal Economy John Duncan makes a brief statement following a meeting of the committee in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The NDP is going to court to challenge the verdict of a secretive House of Commons committee, which found New Democrat MPs guilty of improperly spending $1.17 million in parliamentary resources on partisan mass mailings.

The multi-party board of internal economy ordered NDP MPs on Wednesday to repay $36,000 to the Commons — presumably to cover the cost of envelopes used to send almost 2 million missives to households in 26 ridings, including four in the midst of byelections.

And it concluded the MPs owe another $1.13 million to Canada Post for allegedly improper use of their free parliamentary mailing privileges, known as franking.

"The board cannot compel members to repay these (franking) costs," Conservative whip and board spokesman John Duncan said late Wednesday.

"However, it is incumbent on these members to work with Canada Post to repay the $1.13 million."

But New Democrats dismissed the board as a "kangaroo court" and its verdict as the foregone conclusion of a partisan "witch hunt." They vowed to take the matter to a real court for a fair and impartial hearing.

"None of this will hold up in a court of law," asserted NDP House leader Peter Julian, who was accompanied to a late news conference by renowned constitutional lawyer Julius Grey.

"We believe that we have followed the member's bylaws and the Canada Post Act, and we will now have to fight this process — by a partisan secretive body that is dominated by Conservatives — outside of Parliament." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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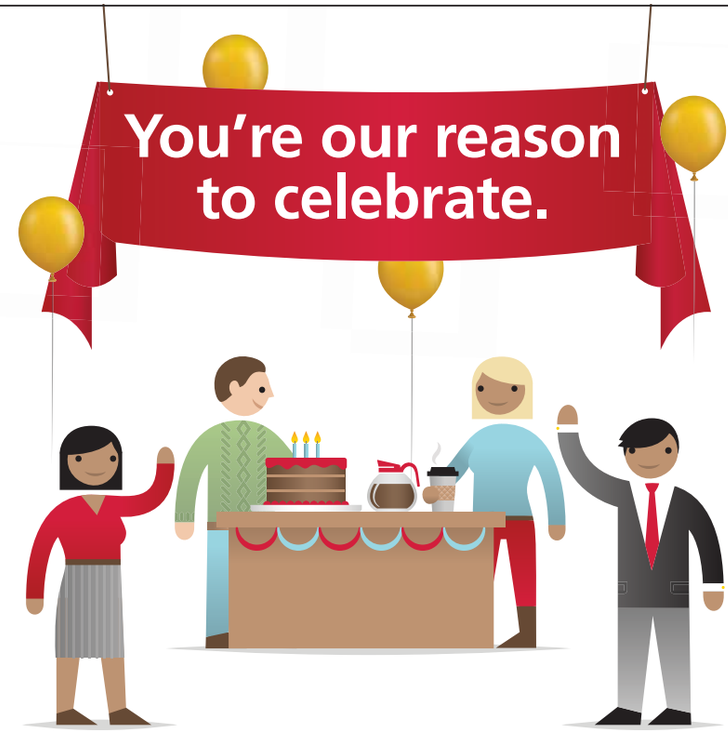

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South Korea. Police raid church in search of man with ties to ferry disaster

Thousands of South Korean police officers stormed a sprawling church compound Wednesday in their hunt for a fugitive billionaire businessman over April's ferry sinking that left more than 300 people dead or missing, officials said.

Authorities believe the businessman, Yoo Byung-eun, owns the ship and that his alleged corruption may have contributed to the sinking. Police have been after Yoo for weeks and are offering a $500,000 reward for tips about him.

Yoo, 73, is a member of a group called the Evangelical Baptist Church, which critics say is a cult.

About 5,000 police officers, some wearing helmets and armed with plastic shields, raided the group's compound in Anseong, just south of Seoul, officers said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. Four church members were detained for allegedly providing shelter to Yoo or helping him flee, police said. Another church member was detained for allegedly trying to obstruct the raid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plainclothes police officers arrest an Evangelical Baptist Church believer, second from right, at the church in Anseong, South Korea, Wednesday. SHIN JUN-HEE/YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oregon

Shooting victim was 'a good kid'

They stopped in fire lanes, on medians. The loved ones of the children at Reynolds High School in the Portland, Oregon, suburb of Troutdale knew that a student was shot to death during the second-to-last day of school.

Details spilled out in fits and starts on Tuesday.

A 14-year-old boy named Emilio Hoffman was fatally shot in the boys' locker-room. Physical education teacher Todd Rispler also was in the gym and was grazed by a bullet.

Hoffman was the only teenage boy in his house, said Savannah Venegas, who dated him a year ago, "so (his mother) was very protective of him."

"He was such a good kid, a quiet kid," Venegas said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian activist sentenced to 15 years

Alaa Abdel-Fattah. Sentence comes in light of government crackdown on rights won in 2011 uprising

An Egyptian court on Wednesday convicted a prominent activist from the 2011 uprising of organizing an unauthorized protest and assaulting a policeman, sentencing him to 15 years in prison, in the latest blow to liberal activists at a time of rapidly eroding freedoms.

The sentence against Alaa Abdel-Fattah is the toughest against any of the secular activists behind the 18-day uprising that ended Hosni Mubarak's 29-year reign.

It is also the first conviction of a prominent activist since former army chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi took office as president on Sunday.

In the 11 months since el-Sissi ousted the country's first freely elected president, the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammed Morsi, authorities have launched a massive crackdown on Islamists, detaining at least 16,000 and killing hundreds. Secular activists opposed to what they see as the revival of Mubarak's police state have also been detained.

Security officials said that while Abdel-Fattah was convicted and sentenced in absentia, he did turn up at the Cairo courtroom later on Wednesday and was detained by police. The absentia sentencing means that he now faces an automatic retrial, although the conviction stands in the meantime.

Abdel-Fattah was accused of inciting an "unauthorized" demonstration on Nov. 26 against a clause allowing military trials for civilians in the draft of a new constitution, which was later adopted by referendum.

Mona Seif, Abdel-Fattah's sister and one of the organizers of the Nov. 26 protest, said her brother attended the demonstration but denied he had organized it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Dec. 25, 2011, file photo, prominent Egyptian blogger Alaa Abdel-Fattah, centre, hugs his son, Khaled, his mother, Laila Soueif, and his sister Ahdaf Soueif, left, after his release, in Cairo. AMR HAFEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Increasing divisiveness

The crackdown is being carried out in the face of a burgeoning insurgency by Islamic militants.

- As the government has moved to curb freedoms won in the 2011 revolt — including by enacting a law that severely restricts protests — pro-military media have stoked a resurgent nationalism and eagerly welcomed the return of a military man to the presidential palace.
- **In his inauguration speech on Sunday, the 59-year-old el-Sissi said freedoms must be limited by "religious and moral principles" and that criticism must be objective and free of slander.**

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It could have been the shrimp eating us

Nature magazine.
Researchers find fossils with a primitive jaw precursor, an adaptation that helped vertebrates rule the world

A hungry homo sapiens tucking into a plate of shrimp may not realize what a stunning reversal of fortunes her dinner represents.

In the primordial seas where life first proliferated, arthropods — the animal family that includes present-day crustaceans — dominated in number and in size, preying on our worm-like vertebrate ancestors with impunity.

But 500 million years later, vertebrates now sit at the top of the food chain, as any Red Lobster proves.

On Wednesday, researchers from Toronto and Cambridge announced they had discovered 44 fossils of a primitive fish that bear a key adaptation responsible for the later success of vertebrates, including humans.

Chipped out of the Canadian Rockies two summers ago, the fish fossils show a long-hypothesized but never-before-seen moment: the primitive precursors of the jaw.

"It was a major event in the evolution of vertebrates. After the creation of jaws, vertebrates were able to capture prey and (chew) food," said Jean-Bernard Caron, an invertebrate paleontologist at the Royal Ontario Museum and the University of Toronto who co-authored the Nature paper announcing the specimens. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

A depiction by Nature magazine of the sea creature Metaspriggina.
CONWAY MORRIS, JEAN-BERNARD CARON, MARIANNE COLLINS/NATURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harm, not help

New York to mull banning gay 'cures'

New York's Democratic-led Assembly was set to discuss a bill on Wednesday that would ban therapy that tries to change a child's sexual orientation. Bans against gay conversion therapy have already gone into law in New Jersey and California.

The American Psychological Association says that there is no evidence that the so-called gay conversion therapy can change someone's sexual orientation. A task force found that it can cause distress and anxiety.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survey

A live-in girlfriend a day, keeps him away ... from doc

Tie the knot, see a doc? A new study says men are more likely to get medical checkups if they're married rather than just living with a woman.

And, surprisingly, more single guys see the doctor than men with live-in girlfriends.

"Perhaps wives have more influence than girlfriends," suggested lead author Stephen Blumberg.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ahhh, now that's the life

A monkey cools off in a water tub in the premises of a Hindu temple on a hot summer afternoon in Jammu, India, Wednesday. Severe heat conditions are prevailing across northern India with temperatures soaring past 45 degrees Celsius at several places.
CHANNI ANAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Anyone having knowledge of a Will dated later than September 25, 2001, of the late Linda May Jenkinson, of the City of Toronto, Ontario, who died on August 26, 2010, is requested to contact Paul Shenton, Lawyer, of the firm Shenton Sakinofsky LLP, at Tel: 647-725-2530 or email: pshenton@ssllp.ca.

Legal mash-up over Tennessee whiskey still sour

Lawyers may need a stiff drink. Liquor companies at odds over the legal definition of the popular beverage

To many, Tennessee means whiskey. But inside the state, the question is: What does Tennessee whiskey mean?

A battle between two worldwide liquor companies — owners of mega-brand Jack Daniel's and smaller rival George Dickel — is being waged over who has the right to label their drink as following authentic Tennessee style. It's among the epicurean battles being waged around the world over what food and drink should carry special status as local and unique.

London-based liquor conglomerate Diageo PLC opened a heated legislative fight earlier this year seeking to overturn the state's newly established legal definition for Tennessee whiskey that has been championed by Jack Daniel's, which is owned by Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman Corp. Among the new rules are requirements that whiskey must be aged in new, charred oak barrels in Tennessee and filtered through maple charcoal prior to aging.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 92.02¢ (+0.31¢)

TSX 14,892.13 (-12.25)

OIL $104.40 US (+$0.05)

GOLD $1,261.20 US (+$1.10)

Natural gas: $4.53 US (-$0.01)
Dow Jones: 16,843.88 (-102.04)

Boardroom drama

More bad karma for Lulu's founder

Shareholders of Lululemon Athletica Inc. have re-elected two directors that the company's founder and largest shareholder Chip Wilson voted against in an apparent boardroom backlash, the latest controversy to come to light at the struggling yoga wear retailer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aftertaste

Vitaminwater fans bitter about stevia formula

Fans of Vitaminwater are demanding that parent company Coca-Cola drop a new formula that uses stevia, a low-calorie sweetener known for its metallic aftertaste.

Coca-Cola Co. changed the formula for its full-calorie Vitaminwater in May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

It's time for Father's Day, that magical time when necktie-company execs celebrate their big annual windfall.

Big Neckwear invented the holiday as a means of selling men's accessories, and they're the only ones who benefit. Everyone else just gets enough ties to start a new soccer league.

When I was a kid, "picking out a gift" on Father's Day meant choosing a necktie shade or, if I was really throwing caution to the wind, a pattern.

This seems especially ridiculous now, because my dad's not really a tie guy. When I was growing up, his tastes were more in the range of his black T-shirt with silver lettering that said "Disco Dad." Maybe the repeating-saxophone-pattern tie I picked out one year would have worked, but I never saw them worn together.

And so today I hope to make up for my disappointing childhood by offering this special gift guide for dads of any taste and inclination. (My dad's inclination, incidentally, is usually about 30 degrees, sleeping with his head on the armrest of the couch.)

Dad's Day Gift Guide:
Just wait until your father gets home

* For a new twist on an old classic, your dad will love a **"Satisfactory Father" mug**. Your father values honesty and integrity, and that "World's Best Dad" mug lacks credibility.

* Remember that gender-specific gifts are now passé, even offensive. Your father can be whatever he wants to be, so why not favour him with that **negligee** you've been eyeing and watch a Father's Day reaction you'll never forget?

* If your dad is more conservative than that, you could always **buy his vote**. A cool $100 ought to do it, and then that Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada candidate in your riding will be one vote closer to victory.

* Two words: **Barbecue apron**. Your father will be so ecstatic you didn't get him a tie that he'll barely notice this is the second most clichéd gift possible, and maybe the only gift even easier to find than a tie.

* Want to get something more personal? Consider a **handmade spare drawer**. Filled with blank tax and medical forms, rubber bands, nails, obsolete computer cables, and keys to locks that might no longer exist, the spare drawer is something every father needs to not need.

Hope that helps! Pick up one of these gifts today or you'll be forced to sprint to the mall for a last-minute gift. Tie goes to the runner.

ZOOM

It's pandamonium!

At the beach under Tsing Ma Bridge in Hong Kong, 1,600 pandas made from recycled paper are put on display in an effort to encourage people to protect endangered animals. The work has already been shown in other cities including Berlin, Paris and Taipei. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Playful art, serious theme

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French artist Paulo Grangeon

By the numbers

1,600

Number of papier-mâché pandas on display in Hong Kong — but more significantly, this is the number of giant pandas still alive in the wild, according to the WWF.

Why so few of these cuties?

- **Sex.** Females are only in heat 1 to 3 days a year.
- **Size.** A newborn is 1/900th the size of the mother, making it very weak.
- **Maturity.** A female panda does not reach full sexual maturity until she is 7.5.
- **Shrinking habitat.** The species is now restricted to 20-odd isolated patches of forest mountains in China.

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 26 in Scene and page 46 in Sports

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metro AR

MetroTube

Rumble with the bumble

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

There are a couple of nice takeaways in this little homespun video of a bumblebee coming to the aid of a hivemate snared by a spider.

One: Bumblebees may look like the Sea Kings of the insect world, but goodness, they're remarkably swift and agile when they take flight. Two: Look at this beautiful technique! Shot in landscape, artfully framed by the windowsill. And narrated by what could be a young David Attenborough. Applause, sir. (Via Functional Electric/YouTube)

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

metro

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Lenses		SRP	SAVE
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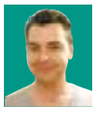
Tunde on the radio ... and the big screen, and the album cover

TV on the Radio.
Indie rock front man is making his mark in acting, graphic design



BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Tunde Adebimpe, second from left, and his band TV on the Radio play Dave Pecaut Square Friday night at 9 p.m. Tickets are $35. CONTRIBUTED

He's best known as the frontman of Brooklyn indie rockers TV on the Radio. But Tunde Adebimpe's creativity knows no bounds, making him the perfect fit for Luminato, the annual, multidisciplinary arts festival now in its seventh year, where his band will be performing.

Besides music, Adebimpe has made his mark in the worlds of acting, directing and even graphic design.

Along with the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and LCD Soundsystem, TV on the Radio helped codify New York's music scene in the 21st century, shifting the city's musical epicentre from Manhattan to Brooklyn. But Adebimpe is now in the middle of a move from the rapidly gentrifying borough to Los Angeles.

On paper, the move could be a boon for his acting career — at the moment he's best known for playing the character who marries Rachel in Jonathan Demme's 2008 indie hit Rachel Getting Married. He's auditioned for a number of low-profile parts in big-budget films, but most of his work has come through friends. As such, Adebimpe tends not to see things through the lens of filthy lucre. "Just in terms of how many people you can meet and collaborate on something, it's pretty amazing."

Each of his creative projects "informs" the next, he says. "It takes a certain musicality between actors, to riff and improvise on lines."

And his musical pursuits have also spilled into his graphic design work. Adebimpe created all four of TV on the Radio's record covers. And he directed a music video for his new side-project, Higgins Waterproof Black Magic Band. Shot over a weekend, he used crew members from the film he was acting in to help realize his vision.

"I really just can't do one thing," he says, "and I'm really happy that it's synthesized into one full deal."

A multi-talented man

"I really just can't do one thing, and I'm really happy that it's synthesized into one full deal."

Tunde Adebimpe, musician/actor/director/graphic designer, on his various creative pursuits

The band is back in business

Adebimpe says this current TV on the Radio tour is a warm-up leading up to a bigger tour. "We have a couple of new songs we're trying out." Following promotional duties for 2011's Nine Types of Light, he and his bandmates took a break to work on other projects. "We were all pretty burnt out from tour and being around each other," he jokes. When they reconvened last year, they quickly recorded the stunning single Mercy, and he says their new album is 90 per cent done and they hope to have the record out by the end of the year. "It's finishing touches right now. It all sounds fun."

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Grumpy Cat. TV movie for Internet sensation

Look for Grumpy Cat on Lifetime to herald in the worst Christmas ever.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the Internet sensation with the wobbly walk, big blue eyes and frowny face will play a chronically overlooked pet-store cat. The twist, according to the cable network, is the 12-year-old girl who can communicate with her.

The live-action movie is aptly named Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever, and the human to voice the four-legged star has not yet been cast. It will shoot this summer.

The script will be written by Tim Hill (SpongeBob SquarePants) and Jeff Morris, the Reporter said.

With her own agent, Grumpy's YouTube videos have racked up millions of hits. She has T-shirts, calendars, gift wrap and a bestselling book available in 14 languages.

In real life, Grumpy is named Tardar Sauce and lives in Arizona. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grumpy Cat celebrated Christmas once. It was awful. LIFETIME

Chappelle's Show

Dave Chappelle says he never quit his TV show. COMEDY CENTRAL

'I'm seven years late for work': Dave Chappelle

Dave Chappelle says he never quit his Comedy Central show. He's just seven years late to work.

Chappelle appeared on the Late Show With David Letterman on Tuesday night, his first late-night appearance in more than six years. Chappelle has kept a mostly low-profile since abruptly exiting Chappelle's Show in 2005. "Technically, I never quit. I'm seven years late for work," said Chappelle, who actually departed the show nine years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1M pound donation

Rowling fights against Scottish independence

Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling waded into the world of muggle politics Wednesday, announcing a 1 million pound ($1.83 million) donation to the campaign against Scottish independence.

Scots will vote in a Sept. 18 referendum on whether to become an independent country. Rowling, who lives in Edinburgh, said she had decided that "while independence might give us opportunities ... it also carries serious risks." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

J.K. Rowling has entered the political world. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Six seasons and a movie? Community's creator, Dan Harmon, says probably not

The creator of the NBC comedy Community isn't holding out much hope that the cancelled sitcom will be getting a rebirth.

Community aired on NBC for five seasons from 2009 to 2014 before its cancellation.

The series followed a group of students at a community college in the fictional locale of Greendale, Colo., and made liberal use of meta-humour and pop culture references.

The cast included Joel McHale, Gillian Jacobs and Danny Pudi and — despite moderate ratings — gained a sizeable cult following.

Series creator Dan Harmon addressed rumours about it possibly being brought back for a sixth season during a session at the Banff World Media Festival on Wednesday.

"I thought they were just phantoms but I was subsequently given information that there was something to those rumours," Harmon confirmed.

Sony, the primary producer of Community, is reported to be shopping the show to other networks and online distribution outlets, with possible new homes for the show including Hulu and Comedy Central.

Danny Pudi and Donald Glover on Community. CONTRIBUTED

"This is the place where Sony excels — brokering deals and making the impossible possible by just brute force and contracts and tractors full of money in smoky rooms," Harmon said with a laugh.

"They were talking to Hula (sic) and Hula was very responsive. I would temper that by saying I feel like a regular fellow looking at the whole thing, it seems so impossible to pull off. So many deals would have to be made that aren't currently made, so many contracts would have to be negotiated," he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rob Ford The Musical

Want to star as a singing Mayor Rob Ford?

Rob Ford impersonators, this is your time to shine.

An open casting call for the upcoming Rob Ford The Musical: The Birth of a Ford Nation will be held at Toronto's Second City Training Center next Monday.

Producers say it's a "colour-blind casting" and that a resemblance to the embattled Toronto mayor isn't required. Hopefuls must perform a one-minute comedy monologue and one pop, rock or comedy song. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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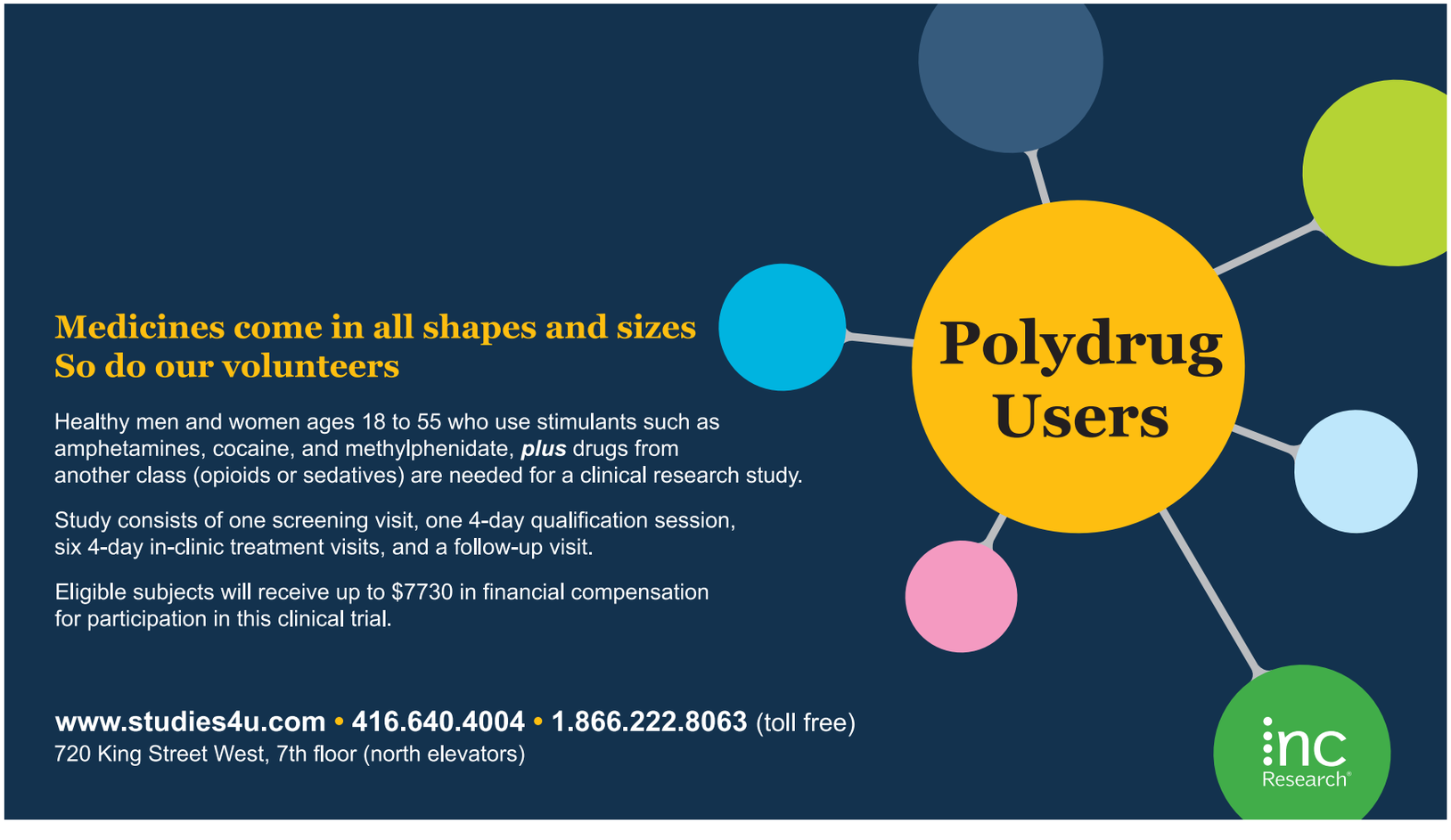
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Scan this image with your Metro News app for a clip of Ice Cube in 22 Jump Street

F— tha Police? Nah, Ice Cube's cool with playing a patience-tested captain

22 Jump Street. The star knows people have low expectations of sequels, but swears this movie's 'as fun as the first one'

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Ice Cube, who played the patience-tested captain in charge of Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill in 21 Jump Street, is back and grumpier than ever in 22 Jump Street, a sequel well aware of itself. The former N.W.A rapper fills us in on the new film and the awkward legacy of F— tha Police.

What did you think when you saw how much more you'd be doing in this one compared to the first one?
I liked it, you know? I think people love Capt. Dickson. He talks as much s— as possible, and everybody's with it. It was cool just to get the tone right and to do a movie that people dig that's fun — as fun as the first one. People respond to it. I think our greatest asset is low expectations.

I would think after the success of the first one, expectations would be pretty high.
Yeah, but people in the back of their minds don't think we could get the sequel as good as the first one. It's not easy to include the audience without taking them out of the story, but [directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller] do a great job of letting people know that we're making a cheesecake out of a cheesy idea.

How often do people ask about the irony of you playing a cop, since you got your start with F— tha Police? And how tired are you of getting that question?
They actually happen every interview, and I'm not tired of it. If you really know what I'm talking about in the music, you know I'm talking about dirty cops, I'm talking about corrupt cops, I'm talking about cops who abuse their authority.

I'm not talking about the cops that come and save your grandmother when she's getting mugged. So to think I hate all cops is crazy. And I'm in Hollywood.

They're obsessed with the lives of law enforcement and military, so if I'm doing movies — especially over 20 years — it's more than likely I'm going to end up playing something like that. It's make believe, anyway.

Ice Cube says Hollywood is "obsessed with the lives of law enforcement and military." CONTRIBUTED

LUMINATO FESTIVAL

Luminato Festival Salutes our Volunteers

PARTNERS IN CREATIVITY L'ORÉAL

Luminato Festival comes to life thanks to its enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. One such individual is Stacy Ramkissoon.

What attracted you to volunteering with the Luminato Festival?
Luminato 2010 started off with a bang as I listened to Melanie Fiona belt out her hits. This introduction was all I needed to want to get more involved with the Luminato Festival. I am a scientist by day and painter by night, who draws inspiration from the wide array of art forms on display at the festival.

What are you most excited about at this year's Festival?
I am excited to engage with other volunteers and patrons who share my enthusiasm for the arts, to attend the Festival Hub showcasing talents such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and to join my fellow foodies for some fun in the sun at *Taste of the Beach*.

Why should people attend the Luminato Festival?
The Luminato Festival harmonizes the beauty of the arts with the cultural diversity of Toronto. Whether auditory, visual, or gustatory, there is an event to tantalize each of these senses, while appealing to audiences from all walks of life!

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Ayoade on why twice is so nice

Richard Ayoade CONTRIBUTED

Take two. The Double director delves into Dostoyevsky and the duality of an office drone's dreary days

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Director Richard Ayoade follows up his acerbic teen indie debut Submarine with something completely different: The clever, inventive and highly stylized The Double, starring a pair of Jesse Eisenbergs and Mia Wasikowska as the object of their affection in a story based on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel. And that's not the only highbrow influence involved.

Friends keep asking me if The Double is anything like Submarine, but it's quite different, isn't it?
With Submarine, the idea of how it was filmed came from what it was about, really, and with this it would be someone who would imagine themselves in a certain esthetic. This [character] felt like someone needed to exist in a certain environment to feel this, and that environment should represent their feelings more. You know that painter Giorgio de Chirico? He was a symbolist painter and created these odd landscapes that came more out of dreams and nightmares. More that kind of a world, where you have something that's impossible but creates an emotion, like having a building that looks like it's night but with sunlight around it it creates a feeling that could not exist realistically or represent something in reality.

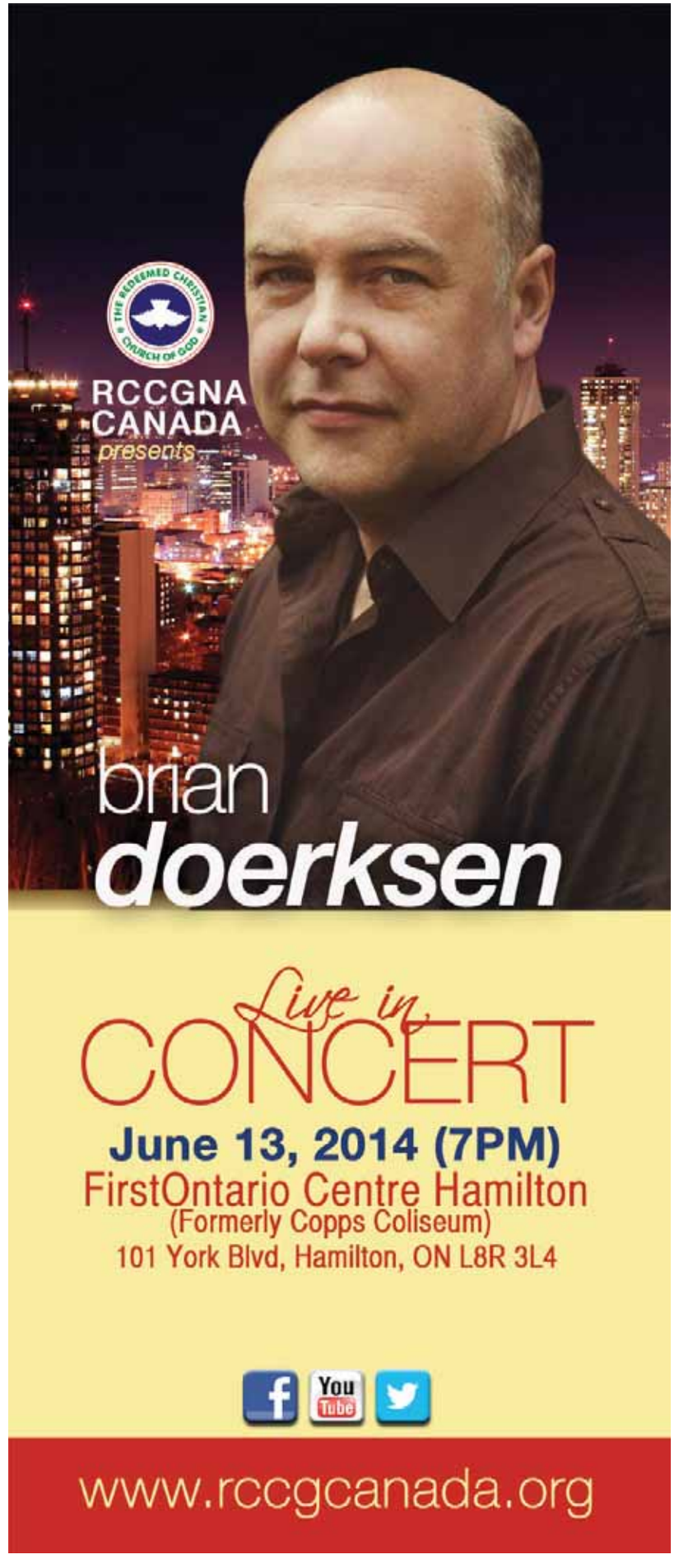
You've also got a pretty horrifying bureaucracy on display here.
Yes, which doesn't exist in modern times anymore. In the book you feel the oppressiveness of class and those things, and we didn't feel that we wanted to get into class considerations because it didn't feel necessary to the psychology of loneliness, in a way. That doesn't feel like it need be socioeconomic only. And so it felt better to create something where someone could be oppressed by their job, whereas now the idea of someone taking their job seriously seems absurd because in any film if someone's working in an office you know that is their dreary reality and the repository of their dreams lies somewhere else, and the office is the epitome of that. It's like a metaphor for frustration, somehow.

How was it directing two distinct Jesse Eisenberg performances?
Really, as silly as it sounds, it just takes longer because you have to rehearse everything twice. So you rehearse as one character once then rehearse as the other character, but probably as a result you go through the scenes much more carefully than you ordinarily would. And the other thing that's tricky is you never see it. You will never simultaneously see them together in a rehearsal. The rehearsal process was more similar to the feeling you have with shooting where you go, "That seems good, and when that's put together with this, it will be good, but I haven't seen it together yet." But he's very brilliant and intelligent and very thorough and he has that ability that actors who do plays have to repeat things without them becoming rote.

Quoted

"He's very brilliant and intelligent and very thorough."

The Double director Richard Ayoade
on working with actor Jesse Eisenberg



Pedro and ligers and tots, oh my!

Gosh! Ten years after cracking us up as Napoleon Dynamite, Jon Heder reflects on the movie that launched his career

"What are you gonna do today, Napoleon?" "Whatever I feel like I wanna do. Gosh!" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Of all the memorable lines in Napoleon Dynamite, the quirky comedy that introduced the world to "ligers" and "Vote for Pedro" T-shirts, there is one that gets hollered at star Jon Heder more than any other.

"Tina, you fat lard, come get some dinner," says Heder, easily adopting Napoleon's indignant, breathy voice after all these years.

The line — directed at his grandmother's pet llama, Tina — perfectly captures the offbeat tone of the 2004 film. Made for just $400,000, the movie was picked up by Fox Searchlight and Paramount after premiering at the Sundance Film Festival and made $46 million worldwide.

Heder, now 36, celebrated the film's 10th anniversary this week with other cast members in Los Angeles, where a statue of Napoleon was unveiled on the Fox Studios lot. In a phone interview with The Canadian Press, he said the film's cult following continues to this day.

"I think people really related to Napoleon, whether they felt like him growing up or knew someone like that," he said. "Even though it's kind of over-the-top and funny, he's trying to get skills, he's trying to figure out what he's good at and everyone can relate to that."

The bizarre comedy set in a rural Idaho town follows Napoleon, a frizzy-haired teenager with a permanent slack-jawed expression, and the unusual characters around him: his shrimpy brother Kip; football-obsessed Uncle Rico; and shy, crafty friend Deb, played by Tina Majorino.

Director Jared Hess took inspiration from his own rural upbringing while writing the film with his wife, Jerusha. His brothers even worked at the chicken farm where Napoleon toils, and the llama actually belonged to his mother — although her real name was Dolly, not Tina.

"After the film screened for the first time at Sundance, my mom came up to me afterwards and said, 'Well, that was a lot of embarrassing family material,'" said Hess with a laugh.

"The character of Napoleon, especially — I come from a family of six boys and just about everything that is said in the film or happens in the film, my brothers either said or experienced firsthand."

Hess wrote a short film featuring the Napoleon character about a year and a half before the feature. He was struggling to find the right actor to play the central role, before he remembered Heder from one of his classes at film school.

"I acted out for him the voice and some of the mannerisms of how he was supposed to sound and look, but then Jon took it and ... he just became the character and totally brought him to life," Hess said.

When Heder read the script for the short film, he said he immediately identified with the Napoleon character because he also grew up in a big family of boys.

"I got it right away," Heder said. "I knew exactly who that person was because so much of Napoleon was in my younger brothers and in myself. We had very similar experiences. I loved it. I was like, 'This is genius.'"

Neither expected the film to go on to be a smash hit or attract a cult following that has lasted a decade. Heder, who later appeared in the Will Ferrell comedy Blades of Glory and Kristen Bell romance When In Rome, said that at first he struggled with the spotlight.

"Getting recognized, I got used to it, but it was weird. It changed everything. I've forever got this thing — it can either be a cloud or a rainbow — just hovering over you that is the movie Napoleon Dynamite," he said.

Asked whether he ever gets tired of being so closely associated with one character, Heder said: "I would, if I really didn't like him.

"But I love the movie. I'm so blessed that it was my first film," he added. "It's very close to my heart ... I was kind of moving on with my life (at that time). I got married. I was starting my career, and I couldn't have asked for a better way to do it."

Over the years, the film has spurred countless fan tributes — a YouTube search for "Napoleon Dynamite dance" reveals just how many people have dutifully learned and recreated Heder's improvised boogie to Jamiroquai's Canned Heat.

But Heder says the strangest fan request he ever received happened while he was speaking at a college several years ago. A fan wanted Heder to recreate a scene where Uncle Rico throws a steak at Napoleon's head.

"This kid came up with a steak and he wanted me to throw the steak at him as part of a retribution act for what Uncle Rico did to me," recalled Heder.

"So I got to throw a steak at someone and I nailed him and it felt great," he said.

"He loved it. Everybody was cheering him on. He felt like a rock star. I felt like a rock star. It was a win-win." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I've forever got this thing — it can be either a cloud or a rainbow — just hovering over you that is the movie Napoleon Dynamite."

Actor Jon Heder on getting recognized

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Ben Affleck ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is Ben Affleck taking a gamble on his marriage?

Ben Affleck's casino habit is apparently driving an even bigger wedge between him and wife Jennifer Garner, who reportedly scuttled plans to spend the summer in Michigan with Affleck while he films Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice, according to Star magazine.

"Jen cancelled her trip. She just doesn't want to be Ben's enabler or babysitter," a source says. "She's completely distraught over Ben's problems. It's a never-ending roller coaster." And that roller coaster has apparently been continuing at casinos in Detroit and across the border in Ontario, where Affleck has been spotted looking dishevelled and distraught, betting $5,000 at a time at the tables.

"Ben has a compulsive personality," another source adds. "Once he starts gambling, he can't stop and he stays up all night, betting thousands, then sleeps all day, which infuriates Jen. Jen needs to ask for help from someone — and soon."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lea's potential new beau may have a steamy alter ego

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Matthew Paetz, Lea Michele's rumoured new boyfriend, is very handsome. So handsome that he may have turned pro.

Sources say Paetz and Michele are dating, but they haven't exactly been spotted snuggling on the red carpet. One possible reason they're keeping the relationship quiet: Paetz used to be a male escort named Christian, according to TMZ.

TMZ has screenshots of "Christian's" profile on Cowboys4Angels, an escort service that provides male companionship to ladies. According to his profile, Christian is a certified life coach, dating specialist and massage therapist. His companionship was available for $350 per hour, $6,000 for a weekend, or $17,500 for the whole week.

That's not to say Lea Michele is a client — she reportedly met Paetz on the set of her music video. Sources say he hasn't been taking on clients since April.

Look. I feel bad even writing about this. When a celebrity is maybe dating a prostitute, one obviously must write it up, but 1) Michele hasn't confirmed that she's dating Paetz; 2) We don't know for sure that Paetz and Christian are one and the same (though the resemblance is striking); and 3) Who cares? Everyone's had an embarrassing job or two. I once got fired from a pirate-themed nightclub. Lea Michele, your boyfriend is fine.

Twitter

@RuPaul
Quick Reminder: Breathe, laugh, repeat

@KevinHart4real
Just touched down in ATL....I slept with my mouth open for the entire flight...I have developed a smell in my mouth that should be banned

@ConanOBrien
Reality Check: I was around in 1973 and saw absolutely no signs of X-Men from the future.

Anna Kendrick

Anna Kendrick admits that her dating game isn't top-notch

It's hard out there for Anna Kendrick. The Pitch Perfect star, who split from director Edgar Wright last year, says that she hasn't been hit on since she made Up in the Air five years ago. "Honest to God," she insists to Elle magazine.

Kendrick has kept a fairly low profile, dating-wise, since her breakup. "When I was a teenager, I was an ultra-late bloomer, and my mom would say it was a blessing because it means you never have to wonder if guys are only interested in you because you've got boobs," she tells the magazine. "I would have been thrilled if guys were interested in me because of my boobs!"

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LIFE 3

PLUS HOMES

Finding foundation in fashion

Shenae's all that.
Canadian actress, blogger and personality Shenae Grimes talks foot phobias, makeup-after-marriage and her beauty brand collaboration

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall@metronews.ca

Perhaps you know her best from Degrassi: The Next Generation, or from playing the role of Annie in the reboot of 90210, but Shanae Grimes has become a force to be reckoned with in the fashion industry of late. She recently chatted with Metro about her move onto the style scene, most recently highlighted by her signing on as the brand ambassador of Annabelle Cosmetics.

In addition to being the new face of Annabelle Cosmetics, Grimes just announced that she and her husband are launching an accessories and clothing brand as an extension of their lifestyle blog twohalvesblog.com PROVIDED

I'm sure you've been approached to team with other product lines in the past. So why does Annabelle feel like the right fit for you?
First and foremost, they're Canadian. It's always nice to have an excuse to get back to my roots. I think what they've done for the industry in Canada is very impressive. And as for the brand's esthetic — it's definitely the most 'me,' which I guess is why they were excited about me and I'm equally excited about them.

What's one word that describes both Annabelle Cosmetics and Shanae Grimes?
I think edgy. My style has always been sort of rock 'n' roll glam and I can't think of a better way to describe the brand as well.

You've been in the public eye for a while now. If you were to scold your former self for one beauty choice you've made, what would it be it for?
Using self-tanners. It's scary. I mean living in L.A. they have airbrush tan artists that mix the colours and do an incredible job. As far as self-tanner out of a bottle — or the kind of spray tan that Ross gets in Friends — we've all had those horrible experiences. I would avoid that.

It's ironic that you've been paired with a cosmetics brand when People Magazine named you one of the most beautiful people without makeup in 2009. So what can Annabelle do for someone who doesn't even need to use cosmetics?
For me it's always my eyes. My husband always says, which he should, that he prefers me without makeup. My eyes are what I always play up. I feel if I wear really heavy skin product, it just makes my skin worse. I always play up the drama in the eye area and reshape them to make my features look better.

Peeper priority

"My eyes are what I always play up. I feel if I wear really heavy skin product, it just makes my skin worse. I always play up the drama in the eye area and reshape them to make my features look better."
Shenae Grimes

Speaking of your hubby, do you feel your beauty routine has changed in any way since settling down with a partner?
Not really. I mean, if I'm running to the grocery store I don't feel pressure to be Kardashian-perfect all the time because he is all for that natural look. It's just given me a little bit more confidence.

You've partnered with a cosmetics brand — but is there a clothing line you would kill to be paired up with?
As far as an existing clothing brand — I'm a shoe fiend so I love Sam Edelman and Steve Madden.

You've interned at Teen Vogue and stated that being a fashion editor would be one of your dream jobs, so if you were the editor of Metro's style section, what would you write about next week?
I'd focus on awesome summer footwear that would be an alternative to the flip-flop. I have a weird phobia: I don't like seeing peoples' feet, and I hate flip-flops and they come back every summer. I'd love to do cute summer shoes and boots that you could wear with your jean shorts and tank tops that avoid the sandal area entirely.

What's your favourite Annabelle product?

"The EyeInk Liquid Eyeliner is my everyday product – the black – it gives the perfect cat eye."

- "The cat eye is something that will never be not on trend but I think that's something that's particularly booming right now."
- EyeInk Liquid Eyeliner, $9.95, annabelle.ca

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The next generation of homebuyers

Forget baby boomers. Millennials are emerging as the next influx of purchasers

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

When it comes to real estate, the psychology of millennials is unlike any previous generation of homebuyers. ISTOCK

After so much talk about baby boomers and their effect on the Toronto real estate market, attention has now shifted toward the up-and-coming millennial generation.

Born between 1981 and 2000, millennials are emerging as the next influx of homebuyers. Comprising roughly nine million people in Canada, or a whopping 27 per cent of the population, it is estimated that nearly two million young, potential homeowners now live in Canada's larger cities and suburbs.

Statistics show that many in this cohort are still living at home. Savvy real estate marketers are taking note, as more millennials move out of their family homes and enter the professional workforce. Their influence will be felt over the next decade as they become full-fledged consumers.

Maureen O'Neill is the managing broker of Sotheby's International Realty Canada's Toronto office. For more than two decades, she's had her finger on the pulse of Toronto's home purchasing trends, and when it comes to real estate, she says the psychology of millennials is unlike any previous generation of purchasers.

"Millennials are high risk takers; they're not afraid of debt. They'll go into a condo, which they prefer, and their focus isn't primarily on how much is it going to take to pay this off and when can I pay it off. If they can carry the monthly payments, that is fine with them."

O'Neill notes that where previous generations had scrimped and saved and waited until they were established, millennials want to jump right into home ownership.

"Before, hardly anybody bought a home earlier than say 35. Now males and females aren't waiting for Mr. Right or Mrs. Right. They're just buying on their own."

There's a huge influx of people wanting to move back into the downtown, both young and old. People want to live where they work. And with Toronto's notorious traffic congestion, they're trading the traditional suburban lifestyle for more of a contemporary urban setting.

According to the National Home Buyer's Survey, millennials are living in urban areas at a higher rate than any other generation.

The allure of downtown Toronto attracts young singles and couples with a wide range of upscale condo products and amenities.

"Before, there wasn't the variety of condos. It's only the last five or six years (that) we've become a little Manhattanized here," explains O'Neill. "The urban centre really started to flourish with all these condos and lifestyle — it's all about lifestyle."

Quoted

"Millennials are high risk takers; they're not afraid of debt. ... If they can carry the monthly payments, that is fine with them."

Maureen O'Neill, managing broker, Sotheby's International Realty Canada

Legal Matters

2-for-1 problem

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

We have sold our house and purchased another one, all of which is happening around the same time. We bought the new home based upon the proceeds of the sale of our present house and are obtaining what the bank refers to as bridge financing. But our lawyer has contacted us, saying the purchasers of our present home are questioning if they are going to go through with it.

Often purchasers want to close earlier on the new home so they can complete renovations and move into the house without the stress of closing both properties on the same day. When you set up this kind of financing, you are required to sign an "irrevocable direction" stating that you and your lawyer will direct funds from the impending sale of your present home to the bank to pay off the bridge loan. You and your lawyer need to determine if the sale is not going to happen. If this is the case, your purchase is indeed jeopardized and the ensuing damages for not being able to close your purchase will possibly be transferred to the purchaser who can't close on your home. Your lawyer should communicate with the purchaser's lawyer that the result of non-completion will be damages well beyond just the purchase price.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

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Seat-smart keeps guests

No more playing musical chairs.
Entertain the grown-up way with tips that will turn your place into an ideal party space

Creating a home that can easily be converted from serving the needs of daily life to a venue for entertaining guests is something homeowners might want to consider when they are planning their spaces and purchasing furniture.

Side tables

According to Angela Robinson, a Vancouver interior designer, most Canadians are casual entertainers, which means their guests might find themselves eating appetizers in a living room rather than sitting down to a formal dinner in a dining room, so seating and tables, including coffee and side tables, are important pieces.

"If you are sitting in a living room having a drink and some food, there is often not enough seating and surface space for people to feel comfortable putting drinks or plates down, and space for a homeowner to put plates of appetizers down," she says. "You really don't want them to put glasses and dishes on the floor beside them."

Extra seating

Storage for extra seating is not an option for many homeowners, but Robinson says there are functional and stylish alternatives to having stacks of folding chairs tucked into a closet.

"It is wise to consider choosing chairs for the rest of your house that co-ordinate with your dining area," she says. "For example maybe a homeowner does a patterned upholstered desk chair or a chair at your kitchen phone desk and as long as they all co-ordinate with your dining room you could pull them in when entertaining."

Hide the mess

Robinson says one of the major problems her clients have when it comes to creating spaces conducive to entertaining is how to approach a home with an open concept.

"A homeowner will be prepping the meal and getting ready for the evening in the kitchen, and quite often are entertaining right beside the kitchen in the adjoining dining room or living room," she says. "I know that having their mess exposed to their guests is a concern for some homeowners."

Creating partitions or barriers with sculptural pitchers or vases and flower arrangements is one easy way homeowners can block guests from what's going on in the kitchen.

Movable pieces

A benefit of an open-concept home is the ability to transform the various spaces to suit the needs of a party. Ellie Chapple, manager and senior designer at Rook and Rose in Victoria, says having pieces that can be moved to create intimate spaces for casual dining or to make way for a large table for formal dining makes entertaining easier.

Set the mood

Chapple also applies the same concept to the accessories that set the mood for the perfect event.

"A big trend we've seen in the past year is the rustic look," she says. "People are using everything from ceramic pitchers and mason jars to wood rounds and cuts, and loose marble cuts." THE CANADIAN PRESS

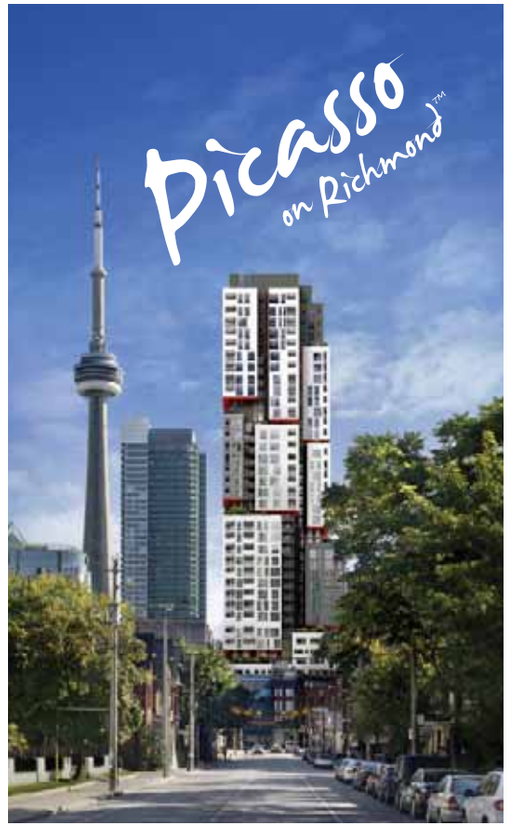
decorating sitting pretty

Small details lead the way

Nothing is worse than when you create the perfect mood in the space you want to entertain in, and your guests congregate in the kitchen for the evening instead. Chapple says paying attention to the small details can help draw people to other areas of the house.

- "Little finishing touches go a long way in terms of decorating your home for an event," she says.
- "Making sure that you are putting those extra touches, whether it is flowers, candles or a string of lights outside, to help pull your guests to the areas you want them to gravitate towards."

Choosing chairs that coordinate with your dining room set helps to create a home that can easily be converted from serving the needs of daily life to a venue for entertaining guests. ALL PHOTOS JANIS NICOLAY/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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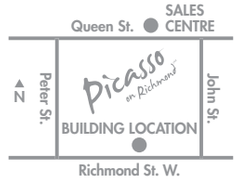

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Urban living in heart of T.O.

50 at Wellesley Station scores top points for walking and transit. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** 50 at Wellesley Station
- **Builder.** PLAZA
- **Location.** 50 Wellesley Street East
- **Website.** pureplaza.com
- **Pricing.** From $299,000 to $435,000

The project overview

A brand-new condo development project by PLAZA currently in pre-construction at Yonge and Wellesley. The 38-storey tower and five-storey podium with a downtown core address is designed by Quadrangle Architects.

Location and transit

Located at Wellesley and Yonge, this bustling corner has a walking score of 100 and a transit score of 98. Residents will enjoy the Wellesley TTC subway station next door. Nearby access to the Don Valley Parkway. Be in the downtown core in minutes.

In the neighbourhood

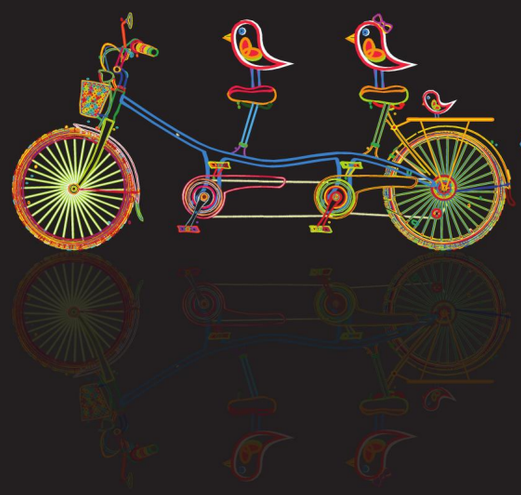
Lots to see and do along Yonge Street: shopping, restos, theatres, bars. Near Bloor Street and Yorkville. Close to the University of Toronto and Ryerson University, College Park and the Eaton Centre.

Building amenities

Featuring a 24-hour concierge, fitness centre and four guest suites. There's a sky lobby on the second floor, party room, movie theatre, outdoor swimming pool and entertaining space with barbecue.

Correction

Incorrect information appeared in last week's The Upper House profile. The condo development's status is open to the public, not pre-development, registration phase as was noted.



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Revitalization

Creating community

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

After moving to downtown Toronto a few years ago, I quickly developed a sense of pride for my neighbourhood and its unique cafés, shops and restaurants.

New developments, whether residential or commercial, offer a significant boost to small neighbourhood shops. With more people moving back to the city and embracing the downtown lifestyle, local businesses reap the benefits of increased foot traffic, higher property values and new infrastructure.

Across the GTA, the industry is creating new communities and revitalizing existing neighbourhoods through high-quality design and construction, community centres, parks and public art.

Lefteris Karagiannis of Mane Construction Group is one of several BILD members working to revitalize older neighbourhoods in the city. His most recent work can be seen in a neighbourhood between Danforth, Little India and Leslieville, which he hopes will soon be officially renamed Bricktowne.

"We want to create an identity for the community, an organic change in terms of ownership and pride," he said, explaining the name pays homage to the history of the area. "I've been testing it with the community and most people are receptive."

Karagiannis and his business partners own four buildings in the area, including 11 rental suites, three commercial spaces and a bustling bistro called Brickyard Grounds.

They recently partnered with Nuit Blanche and funded two murals to beautify the community without making it too commercial for a neighbourhood that's home to a lot of artists and musicians.

A lot of what you see in your neighbourhood was made possible by the development industry.

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Downtown

Preview Opening: Dundas Square Gardens condominiums. Make your way to the Hilton Garden Inn, 200 Dundas St. E., at Jarvis. June 14 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-645-8575, DUNDASSQUAREGARDENS.COM

2. Roncesvalles

Grand Opening: Howard Park 2 condominiums. Head over to the sales centre at 60 Howard Park Rd., June 14 from 12 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-873-0989, HOWARDPARK2.COM

3. Dovercourt

Official Launch: 455 Dovercourt modern condominium townhomes by Curated Properties. Visit 455 Dovercourt Rd., June 12 from 6 to 8 p.m.

CONTACT: DOVERCOURT455.COM

4. North York

Open House: The Palm condominiums at Yonge and Finch. Three brand new suites. Head up to 5740 Yonge St., June 14 and 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: 905-277-0771

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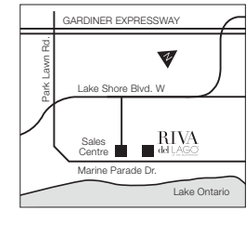

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Custom considerations

You can sometimes get what you want.
Furniture store allows the customer to play designer

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Stylish home dwellers want their homes to have a personalized, designer-touch look. Words like eclectic, curated and customized are all buzz words written in the home decor magazines, but how easy is it to get these perfectly thrown together looks?

Many Canadian home furnishings stores are offering custom options on their best-selling pieces of furniture. This ensures you can have a one-of-a-kind piece that your neighbour won't also have.

Here are a few things to consider when customizing your upholstered furniture that will help your purchases look like you had a designer by your side:

Fabrics

The larger the piece of furniture, the larger the fabric's print can be. Larger pieces can also hold a darker or more dramatic fabric colour due to their proportions. If choosing a solid fabric, then make sure it has some texture to add interest.

Furniture style

Rounded arms will imply a more formal/traditional look while square edges look more masculine, streamlined or modern.

Comfort and size

When sitting on a sofa, the edge of the seat cushion should comfortably meet the inside of the knee. A deeper cushion will give you a lounge style suited for watching television while anything less creates a formal style of sofa seating.

Wood trims/legs

Take the shape of the leg from the shape of the sofa's arm. If a rounded arm has a rounded leg and vice versa. The stain colour of a wood leg should match the room's larger wooden furnishings or be a shade darker than the wood flooring.

A few months ago, I decided to purchase a single reading chair for the corner of my den. I saw a style I liked, but knew I wanted something more colourful. Upon inquiring at my local Urban Barn store, I found out that a large selection of fabrics, leg styles and seating comfort options were available to help customize many of the standard upholstery furniture pieces they sell.

I went from a chair style I liked to a custom chair I loved, and all I had to do was ask if those options were available!

Tailor-made just for you

Many Canadian home furnishing stores are offering custom options on their best-selling pieces of furniture.

Groove Chair, left, $930 (standard), a great standard design was lacking the pizzazz I had hoped for.

Custom Groove Chair, above, with upgraded fabric choice, new leg style option, contrast piping detail, down-wrapped seat upgraded cushion, $1,300. UrbanBarn.com

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

MARKHAM & ELLESMERE
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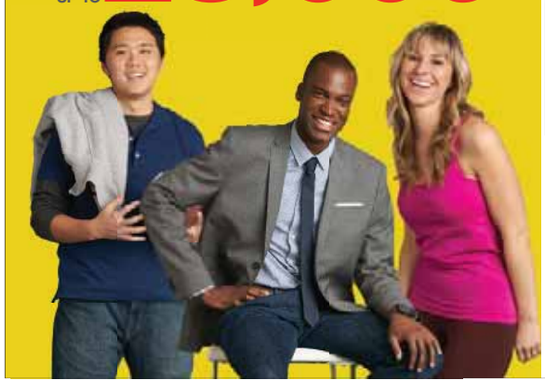

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LASH

Cookbook of the Week

Inner workings of a man's kitchen

Man Made Meals offers guys everything they need to achieve confidence and competence in the kitchen. With the inclusion of tools and techniques, Steven Raichlen offers secrets from the pros that will help you understand flavours and flavour boosters, and enhance your recipe repertoire. There are 300 recipes to choose from. Among them are: Blowtorch Oatmeal, Skillet Rib Steak, Beer Battered Fish, Loaded Potatoes, Rum and Coke Floats, and more. **METRO**

That's one very manly sandwich!

Chivito. This Father's Day, treat dad to Uruguay's amazing steak and egg sandwich

"Simply defined, the chivito is a steak sandwich — the way the Super Bowl, simply defined, is a football game. You start with thin-sliced steak and pile on bacon, eggs, cheese, lettuce, tomato, roasted peppers, and mayonnaise. It makes a Philly cheesesteak look downright anorexic," writes Steven Raichlen in his book Man Made Meals.

Ingredients

- 2 kaiser rolls
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise, preferably Hellmann's
- 2 Boston lettuce leaves, rinsed and patted dry with paper towels
- 4 slices bacon, cut in half
- 2 beef steaks (3 to 4 oz) cut or pounded 1/4 inch thick
- Coarse salt (kosher or sea) and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 slices Jack or mild cheddar cheese, each about 1 oz
- 2 large eggs
- 1 luscious red ripe tomato, thinly sliced
- 2 large strips roasted red pepper

This recipe makes two sandwiches — one for you and one for dad. LUCY SCHAEFFER

1. Cut the rolls almost in half through the side. Spread the cut sides of the rolls with the mayonnaise. Place a lettuce leaf on the bottom of each roll. Set the rolls aside while you cook the bacon, steak, and eggs.

2. Arrange the bacon in a single layer in a cold large skillet and heat over medium heat. Cook the bacon until it is crisp and browned, 3 minutes per side. Transfer the bacon to a plate lined with paper towels to drain. Leave the bacon fat in the skillet.

3. Season the steaks with salt and black pepper to taste. Heat the skillet over high heat. Add the steaks to the skillet and cook until done to taste, 2 minutes per side for medium.

4. Place the steaks on the rolls, and top them with the bacon and cheese. Leave the fat in the skillet.

5. Once again, heat the skillet, this time over medium-high heat. Crack the eggs into the skillet and cook until the whites are crisp and browned on the bottom and edges, 2 minutes on the first side, 1 minute on the second side, carefully turning them with a spatula. Slide the eggs into the sandwiches on top of the cheese.

6. Top each egg with slices of tomato and a strip of red pepper, if using, and season the sandwiches with a little more salt and black pepper. Close the sandwiches and cut them in half before serving.

RECIPE PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM MAN MADE MEALS BY STEVEN RAICHLEN (WORKMAN PUBLISHING, 2014)

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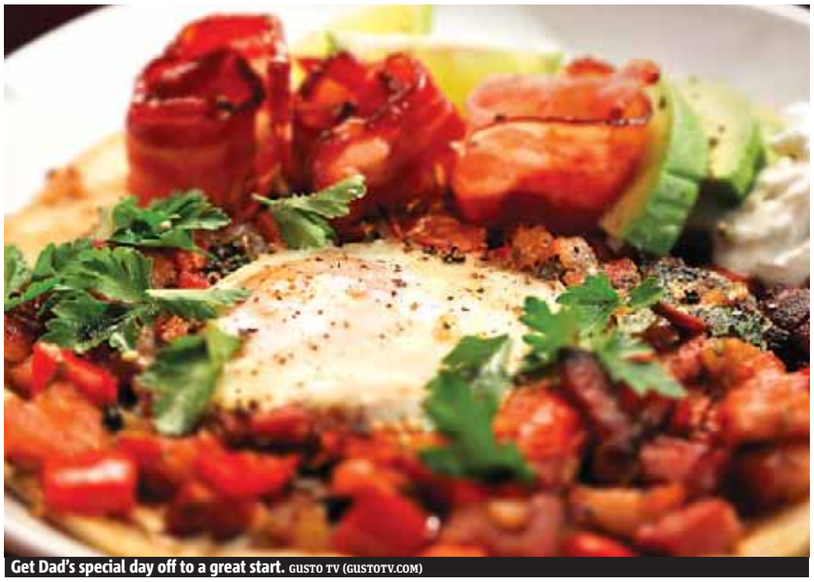
Whether you plan to surprise Dad with breakfast, lunch or dinner, Metro has teamed up with Gusto TV (gustotv.com) to bring you some perfect recipes for this Father's Day. Here are out suggestions courtesy of the hosts of My Kitchen Rules, Ask the Butcher and Secret Meat Business.

Metro

Breakfast: Bacon Huevos Rancheros



Get Dad's special day off to a great start. GUSTO TV (GUSTOTV.COM)

This Bacon Huevos Rancheros recipe comes from My Kitchen Rules, in which 12 home-chef teams compete to determine whose kitchen rules.

1. To make tortillas, mix or process all ingredients to form a smooth dough. Knead for 5 minutes. Cover with a tea towel and rest for 10 minutes. Divide dough into four portions. Roll portions into thin rounds.

2. To make sauce, combine sauce ingredients in a jug.

3. To make salsa, heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Cook speck until golden brown. Set aside. Add onion, garlic, red pepper and spices to same pan. Cook until soft. Stir in tomatoes and speck. Cook, stirring frequently, for 20 minutes or until mixture is soft. Remove from heat. Stir in zest and half the sauce.

4. Preheat oven to 180 C. (350 F)

5. Heat a large lightly oiled frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook tortillas, one at a time, on both sides, until golden and crisp.

6. Arrange tortillas on a large oven tray. Divide salsa over one half of each tortilla, making a well in centre of salsa. Crack an egg in each well. Bake 6-8 minutes or until egg set and cooked to your liking

7. Cook bacon in a lightly oiled frying pan until browned and crisp.

8. To serve, arrange goat's curd, avocado and bacon on empty side of tortilla. Garnish egg and salsa with parsley. Serve with lime wedges and remaining sauce.

AN ALL-NEW SEASON FIVE OF MY KITCHEN RULES AIRS MONDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS AT 9 PM EST ON GUSTO TV

Ingredients

Tortillas
- 250 g plain flour
- 100 ml water
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Pinch salt

Sauce
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp Tabasco sauce

Salsa
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 100 g piece Speck, diced
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 red pepper, finely diced
- 1/4 tsp dried mixed spices (sumac, thyme, oregano)
- 4 medium tomatoes, deseeded, finely diced
- 1 tsp finely grated lemon zest

Topping
- 4 eggs
- 8 pieces smoked bacon
- 4 tbsp goat's cheese
- 2 small avocados, sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- Lime wedges, to serve

Lunch. Banh Mi.

This recipe serves one. GUSTO TV (GUSTOTV.COM)

Chef Adrian Richardson knows his way around a steak. Here is the host of Secret Meat Business' recipe for Banh Mi (Vietnamese Pork Roll).

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine mince, liver, coriander, garlic, ginger, chili, curry powder and a pinch of salt and pepper. Mix until well combined and form patties.

2. Over a medium to high heat, lightly oil a griddle pan. Add patties and cook for 2 - 3 minutes on both sides.

3. Take the baguette and fill with patty and any/all remaining ingredients.

SECRET MEAT BUSINESS AIRS MONDAYS AT 10 PM/10:30 PM EST AND TUESDAYS AT 7 PM/7:30 PM EST ON GUSTO TV

Ingredients

Patty
- 200 g pork mince
- 4 chicken livers, chopped
- 1/2 bunch coriander, roughly chopped
- 1/2 clove garlic, grated
- 1/2 tsp ginger, grated
- 1 bullet chili, finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp curry powder
- Salt and pepper

Sandwich
- Baguette, cut to 6 inch
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp Sriracha chili sauce
- Cucumber, thin strips
- Carrot, thin stripes
- Spring onion, chopped
- Coriander, chopped
- Fresh chili, chopped

Take Dad's dinner to the next level with Aged Rib-Eye

This recipe serves four. GUSTO TV (GUSTOTV.COM)

Ask the Butcher host Anthony Puharich's Grilled Aged Rib-Eye with Tomato, Onion and Chipotle Sauce is drool-worthy.

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (390 F)

2. Season steaks with sea salt 2 hours before cooking, and allow to come to room temp.

3. Salsa: Place tomatoes and onion in small ovenproof dish (that holds tomatoes snugly), pour olive oil over and season with sea salt. Roast 1 hour or until skins of tomatoes burn a little.

4. Remove from oven, pull off tomato skins, then place contents of the dish in saucepan and mash tomatoes with tongs. You should have a sauce with lots of olive oil on top. Bring to a boil (then oil will blend in), reduce by a third, then add the chipotle powder and mix through. Cook for a further minute, then remove from heat and allow to cool. Add the parsley and lime juice, then season to taste with sea salt and white pepper. Makes about 250 g (1 cup).

5. Heat a flat or ridged chargrill pan on the stovetop or heat barbecue to very hot.

6. Rub steaks with a little olive oil. Cook them for about 2 minutes (for rare), then turn over and cook for a further 2 minutes. Allow the meat to rest in a warm place for 5 minutes.

7. Place steaks on serving plates, top with dollop of room-temperature salsa and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil. Serve with your favourite potatoes and a bowl of boiled greens.

ASK THE BUTCHER AIRS TUESDAYS AT 8 PM & 8:30 PM EST ON GUSTO TV

Ingredients

- 4 grass-fed rib-eye steaks with bone in, about 360 g each
- Sea salt
- Extra virgin olive oil, for drizzle

Salsa
- 4 large vine-ripened tomatoes
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 100 ml extra virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 tbsp chipotle chili
- 1 tbsp roughly chopped flat-leaf (Italian) parsley
- Juice of 1 lime
- Sea salt and white pepper powder, or to taste

Refreshing, fermented apple (or pear) juice goodness

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

It's been a long time coming, but cider has finally found a home in the hearts and mouths of Canadians. A tidal wave of fermented apple juice is rolling across the country.

Artisanal ciders have created a cottage industry in most provinces, but you can find these larger international brands just about everywhere, including on tap at your favourite pub.

Strongbow English Dry

The juicy apple sweet core of this granddaddy of modern ciders ends crunchy and dry (England, 500 ml, $3.00 to $3.95).

Foundry Golden

More deeply coloured than Strongbow, with a spicy apple-saucey aroma and rich, baked apple flavour (England, 500 ml, $3.00 to $3.88).

Magners Original Irish

Deep and golden with a very dry, ripe apple fruit that ends ripe and well-rounded (Ireland, 500 ml, $3.15 to $4.62).

Somersby

Orchard aromatics and Granny Smith meet green Jolly Rancher candy sweetness, soothed by a thirst-quenching carbonation (Denmark, 500 ml, $3.00 - $3.94).

Sir Perry Pear Cider

Not as muscular as the apple variety, the outcome has more of a wine vibe. It's subtle and lightly sweet, but finishes dry (England, 500 ml, $3.00 - $3.99).

Father's Day on a budget? A D.I.Y. herb garden plan

Barbecue companion. Instead of heading to the store, make your own gift from scratch

JORDAN HIPSON
For Metro Canada

Father's Day and Mother's Day are unlike most other holidays — we don't decorate, we don't attend special services and we are not expected to go overboard with gifts.

Therefore, Father's Day and Mother's Day are days of pure appreciation and love for people who have affected our lives in a way no one else can.

With much thought, it is very possible to purchase a store-bought gift for Father's Day. However, a DIY gift truly speaks to the love we have for Dad.

Naturally, when we think of Dad and summertime, the first thing to come to mind is the barbecue. So why not build him an herb garden? A compact, easy-to-grow herb garden perfectly compliments all of his favourite BBQ foods.

How To

1. Begin by thoroughly rinsing PVC pipe with hot water. If you have organic or non-toxic soap on hand, use that to further clean the pipe (white vinegar works, too).

2. Place the PVC pipe with the single-opening side down on heavy plastic or mesh. Using a heavy marker or pencil, trace around opening. Ensure your hot glue gun is plugged in to heat up.

3. Cut out the circle you have just traced.

4. Place a thin bead of a glue around the single opening of your PVC pipe. Safely attach your plastic or mesh. If you are using plastic, consider adding a few small slits or holes to allow drainage.

5. Fill the vessel with enough soil to plant your herbs. When planting the herbs, the excess soil in the store pot is usually enough to completely fill each of the pipe's ends.

6. If your herbs came with plant-markers, place them behind the herb in each opening. Water lightly and trim off any weeping pieces.

A stove-side herb garden also sits well by the barbecue. JORDAN HIPSON FOR METRO

Step 4: Attaching a mesh to allow for drainage. JORDAN HIPSON FOR METRO

Materials

- PVC Wye Pipe – 2 or 3 pipe configurations Heavy plastic or Tight window-screen mesh
- Planting medium (look for a small-planter-specific soil mix)
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Water
- Herbs, depending on Dad's preference: rosemary, dill, fennel, thyme, parsley, chives.

Forget the uninspiring ties, socks and cards

This Father's Day treat your Pops to a unique gift he'll definitely not forget. Where to start? Here are a few geographical suggestions for you.

METRO

British Columbia

Dad can reminisce about his younger days spent building forts with a stay in one of Free Spirit Spheres' orb-like suspended cabins in the trees. Stays in these unique treehouses near Qualicum Bay on Vancouver Island start at $155 a night. freespiritspheres.com

Alberta

Get your dad to unveil his inner dude with a cowboy experience. Alberta Country Vacation features a number of cattle drive packages taking place in July, August and September. Various costs. albertacountryvacation.com

Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Give Dad the chance to see one of the most majestic creatures on Earth: the beluga whale. A trip to Churchill, Man., may be pricey, but the look on Dad's face will be worth it.

For a list of tour providers, visit everythingchurchill.com.

Ontario

Is Dad a speed demon? Let him exercise his heavy foot on an actual racecourse.

The Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (canadiantiremotorsportpark.com) near Bowmanville, Ont., and the Bridgestone Racing Academy, race2000.com, in Toronto are among the courses offering lessons.

Quebec

Your father may be called the king of his castles, but he can be the king of an actual ice palace. It may be a few months away, but reserve his a stay at the Hôtel de Glace in Quebec City (hoteldeglace-canada.com), which is open each year between January and March. A special package is now on for $179 until June 30.

Nova Scotia

Guys don't dance? Oh, yes they do. Need proof? Watch a flamenco dancer powerfully take over a stage.

The Maria Osende Dance School in Halifax offers an eight-week beginner course (no partner required) ranging from $99 to $155. Mom may thank you the next time she takes Dad on the dance floor. mariaosende.com

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FATHER'S DAY GUIDE

Thursday, June 13, 2014

Frank Emanuele and Norm Furtado hold their son, Luca. The couple began their surrogacy journey years ago, and this year they are celebrating their first Father's Day. CONTRIBUTED

'I just realized, I am a dad now'

First Fathers' Day. London, Ont., couple shares trials and tribulations of finding a surrogate

KATE RAE
For Metro

Frank Emanuele, a teacher in London, Ont., always knew one thing for sure: He wanted to be a dad. One of the hardest parts about coming out in his early 20s, though, was the realization that, as a gay man, that wouldn't happen easily.

"I told myself I could adopt, but still. I thought I would being doing it alone."

For Norm Furtado, a family physician, becoming a father was never on the horizon. "It just wasn't something I thought about. I was so career-focused, and becoming a parent just wasn't in the picture. In fact, in my 20s, I would say I was pretty anti-kids. I had just come out and was developing who I was."

But in a sushi restaurant in London on one of the couple's early dates in 2005, everything changed for both of them. "Frank basically said, 'Look, I am having kids. This is where the train is going,'" Furtado said. "And I don't know my exact words, but I said, 'Yeah. I could have kids with you.' It suddenly seemed possible." And the journey began.

Years of research, heartbreak and baited breath followed as the couple navigated the complex world of surrogacy. Finally, they found their match online: Angela, a mother of four, who offered to be their "oven." Thanks to an egg donor and many tricky discussions and negotiations, the dream of becoming dads looked like it was finally going to become a reality.

Throughout the entire process, Furtado says, Emanuele had his eye on the prize the whole time, while he was more focused on the journey itself.

"I'm much more pragmatic," he says. "I was thinking about scheduling doctor's appointments and taking time off work. The process was really overwhelming. I wouldn't say I was excited, as much as I was anxious."

But as Angela's pregnancy progressed and hurdles were conquered, Furtado felt his anxiety waning and his excitement growing.

"I think before the baby came — when it was still theoretical — I only thought about parenting in terms of all of the extra work. But as soon as Angela started showing, I started thinking about other things, like school plays."

The labouring proved to be more complicated than with Angela's previous four pregnancies, and both dads were stricken with worry. But Furtado's recollection of the moment when his son was born is sharply focused and awash with love for both his husband and baby.

"I watched Frank the whole time. I remember the look on his face.

"I remember the way his hands fell open to welcome our child.

"I describe fatherhood as 'new heights of joy balanced with new depths of fatigue,'" says Furtado. "But at the end of the day, there is nothing more healing than playing with Luca and hearing him giggle."

"People talk about 'that moment' when you suddenly feel like a parent," Emanuele says.

The dads' conversation before fatherhood

"Frank basically said, 'Look, I am having kids. This is where the train is going.' And I don't know my exact words, but I said, 'Yeah, I could have kids with you.' It suddenly seemed possible."

Norm Furtado

"I didn't stop to think about what I was feeling. When the moment came to cut the cord, our plan had been to have Frank do it — I didn't want to take that moment from him. But he had his hands full with Luca. It's something I've done many times before as a doctor without even thinking about it. But this time … Then Frank moved to a chair we'd set up so Luca could have skin-to-skin contact with him and when that floppy, wet baby was placed on his belly, I just realized, 'I am a dad now.'"

Now, eight months into fatherhood, the two dads are starting to talk about adding to their family and giving Luca a sibling. Both are besotted.

"I never had that. The moment Luca was born, I was so ready. It was 'OK, here we go.' Life is different, of course."

This Father's Day — their first as parents — will be spent at a cottage with their friends Emily and Andrea, a couple whose three-year-old daughter for whom Emanuele was the donor.

"I knew that I couldn't ask anyone to help me have a baby, if I wasn't willing to do the same for another family," Emanuele added. This year, the two couples and two kids will all celebrate Donor's Day and Father's Day together.

"We always say that we don't have a family tree," Emanuele says. "We have a family vine."

Spoil dad on his special day

Grooming goods.
These gifts will keep dad looking and smelling his best

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Jack Black Deep Dive Glycolic Facial Cleanser is ideal for oily skin as well as dry. Glycolic acid smooths, prevents clogged pores and evicts dry patches, too. $20 at Hudson's Bay, Holt Renfrew and Sephora.

Clark & James Garconnière Cotton Soap Rope brings back that soap-on-a-rope concept in a fresh, cool, planet-friendly way. $16 via clarkandjamesco.com.

The Gillette Fusion ProGlide with FlexBall Technology is a next-level razor that smoothly navigates facial contours to deliver an ultra-close shave on the most sensitive skin. $19.99 at drugstores and mass retailers.

The Blind Barber Shave Kit pairs rich Watermint Gin shave cream with a moisturizing Aftershave Soother. Stop by the popular East Village barbershop and cocktail parlour on your next NYC trip. $50 at 6ByGeeBeauty

Captain's Choice Original Bay Rum Aftershave combines vintage and modern with a side of "aye-aye, matey" in an invigorating yet soothing natural brew. $17.95 via menessentials.ca.

Eminence Neroli Age Corrective Eye Serum, hydrates, softens and smoothes under-eye skin. It was a hit with Fassbender and Jackman on the set of X-Men: Days of Future Past. $58. 1-888-747-6342 for retailers.

Clinique For Men Oil Control Mattifying Moisturizer feels light on skin and provides essential hydration as it tempers shine. $31 at department stores, Sephora and Murale.

Imperial Barber Products Fiber Pomade adds lightweight texture, subtle shine, and restyle-ability when the ball cap or motorcycle helmet comes off. $24 via menessentials.ca.

Hermès Terre d'Hermès Eau Tres Fraîche is a zesty, more airy version of the classic original, with a slight trail appropriate for low-scent-tolerance zones. $124 at Hermès boutiques and Holt Renfrew.

Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue Light Blue Discover Vulcano bottles the balmy, sun-soaked mediterranean sea with vibrant splashes of Italian lemon and zingy ginger. From $77 at Holt Renfrew, Hudson's Bay, Shoppers Drug Mart, Jean Coutu and Sephora.

From far left: Clark & James Garconnière Cotton Soap Rope, $16; Jack Black Deep Dive Glycolic Facial Cleanser, $20; Clinique For Men Oil Control Mattifying Moisturizer, $31; Imperial Barber Products Fiber Pomade, $24; Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue Light Blue Discover Vulcano, $77; Hermès Terre d'Hermès Eau Tres Fraîche, $124; The Gillette Fusion ProGlide with FlexBall Technology, $19.99; Captain's Choice Original Bay Rum Aftershave, $17.95; Eminence Neroli Age Corrective Eye Serum, $58; andThe Blind Barber Shave Kit, $50.

Are you looking for something a little different for dad this year?

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Get creative. Skip generic gift

This year, you'd really prefer to bypass giving a tie. And the gardening tools. Instead, get creative for Father's Day and be inspired with these fresh takes on gifts to celebrate dad.

Dad blogger Mike Reynolds says let your kids contribute their creativity to a Father's Day gift. CONTRIBUTED

IF YOU INSIST ON A TIE... "For Father's Day a few years ago my wife bought a blank tie and let the kids scribble all over it," says Mike Reynolds, a dad blogger with puzzlingposts.com. "If a tie is to be bought, make sure the kids have a role in it. I love my tie!"

PICK UP LEGO... "I've got an affinity to all things Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, so I've built a few sets with my oldest daughter and both of us have a blast doing it," says Reynolds. "It's a good way to extend the fun beyond just receiving the gift and into doing something."

CONSIDER A PHOTO FRAME... and have the kids decorate it. "That way the kids can personalize it and you can put in a picture that's important to you," suggests Ricky Shetty, a dad blogger at daddyblogger.com.

What is dad's special hobby? If it is aerospace, Nanoblocks are a great gift for Father's Day. CONTRIBUTED

TAKE TO THE PAGE... "Have kids write their own stories to give to dad. I write stories with my girls all the time and every time they come up with a new idea, no matter how crazy it is, I fall in love with their stories," Reynolds says. "Once they're done you have a story to read with the kids whenever you'd like."

How to choose

Not sure what to do? "When you're looking for a gift, focus on the relationship with that person," says Shetty.
"No matter who it is, it's really about that individual person. So let that guide you rather than the store you go to dictate the gift."

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK/FOR METRO

Go, go gadgets

Useful toys. Tech gifts range from a laptop to a robot that cleans your grill

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Forget the neckties and fancy pens, technology is quickly becoming the go-to gift for dads on Father's Day. Here are a few of the most useful tech gadgets you can surprise dad with this year.

SONY SMARTBAND ($99.99)

Perfect for dads with an active lifestyle, this activity tracker monitors your movements, as well as your sleep patterns. There are many trackers on the market, but what really sets this one apart is the fact that it tracks your entertainment, giving you an overall snapshot of your lifestyle right on your Android smartphone.

GRILLBOT ($129.95)

Take the grunt work out of cleaning your grill. Set this small rechargeable robot on your BBQ and stand back as it gets to work scouring backed on residue. The brushes are dishwasher safe, which makes cleaning a breeze. Comes in a variety of colours.

MOPHIE SPACE PACK ($149.95 AND UP)

The only case in the world which not only protects your iPhone, it expands the available storage. The Mophie Space Pack adds an additional 16 or 32GB to your iPhone to store everything from music, photos, videos and files. The case also contains an internal battery to double the life of your iPhone.

HTC ONE M8 ($699.99, NO CONTRACT)

This smartphone sports a sophisticated gun metal finish, perfect for dads who want style and performance. Dual front speakers provide an incredible audio experience, while the camera lets you focus on subjects after you snap the picture, allowing for truly creative photos.

MACBOOK AIR ($999.99 AND UP)

There's a reason the MacBook Air remains a favourite amongst those on the go. This ultra-thin laptop weighs a mere 1.08 kilograms (just over two pounds) yet it still has plenty of power. Apple recently updated the processor for added speed, plus it has a battery that will last up to 12 hours on a single charge.

PHILIPS VACUUM BEARD AND STUBBLE TRIMMER ($49.99)

Help dad look his best. This unique beard trimmer has a built-in vacuum to collect trimmings, ensuring the bathroom sink stays nice and clean. The blades are maintenance free, and can be set to 18 different pre-set lengths.

PEBBLE STEEL SMARTWATCH ($249)

The smartwatch that does much more than just tell time. With thousands of apps, you can get Pebble to control your music, track your activities, or notify you when your favourite team scores. On top of that, the metal and leather finish will look great on any dad's wrist.

GAME GOLF ($259.95)

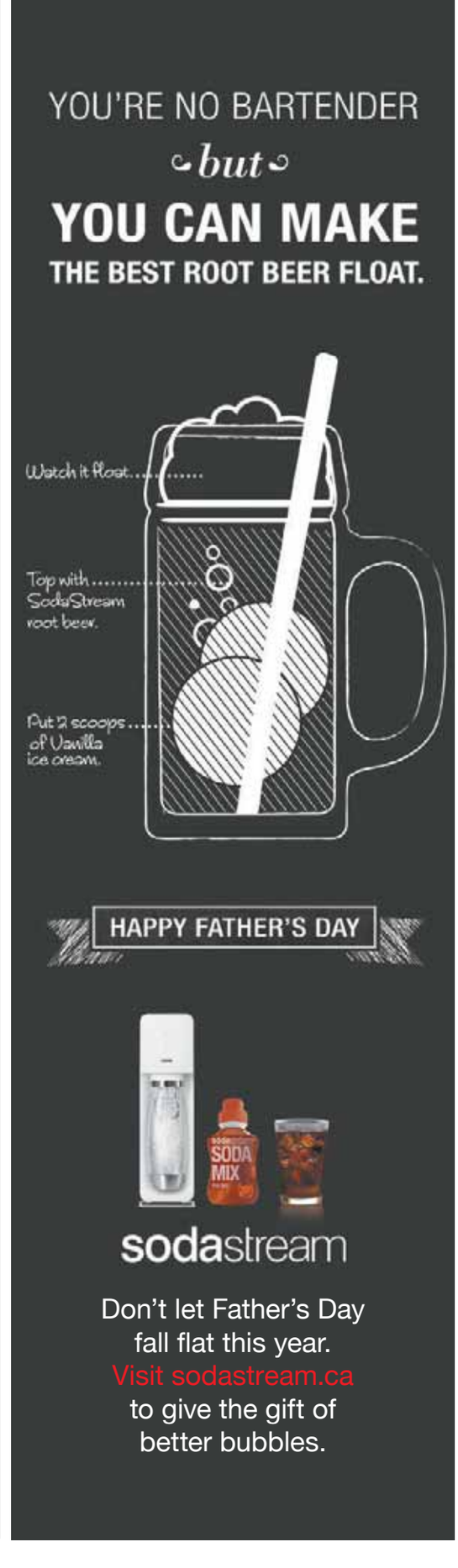
Help dad stay on top of his golf game. This system uses special Near Field Communication tags on each club to determine club usage, distance hit and putts per hole. Once you finish a round, you can track your overall performance right on your iPhone or brag about your progress online with family and friends.

BABOLAT 'PLAY PURE DRIVE' TENNIS RACQUET ($450)

The world's first connected tennis racquet features sensors integrated into the handle to track power, where the ball hits the racquet head, along with other stats, rating your overall technique. The racquet works in unison with both Android and iOS devices.

Clockwise from bottom left: Babolat 'Play Pure Drive' tennis racquet, $450; Mophie Space Pack, $149.95; Macbook Air, $999.99; Grillbot, $129.95; HTC One M8, $699.99; Sony Smartband, $99.99; Philips Vacuum Beard and Stubble Trimmer, $49.99; and Pebble Steel Smartwatch, $249.

Game Golf, $259.95.



ASUS recommends Windows 8.

Father's Day card and gift in one incredible package.

ASUS VivoTab™ Note 8

Dads love getting homemade cards from their kids, and everyone loves a great gift. With the ASUS VivoTab Note 8, you can give both. Its professional Wacom stylus pen provides an extremely natural writing and drawing experience, meaning you don't need paper to create the perfect card. This combined with a HD display, powerful quad-core processor and Microsoft Office Home and Student 2013 preinstalled, makes the ASUS VivoTab Note 8 the ultimate gift this Father's Day.

Work easy. Play hard. Windows

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Gene Wilder (centre) stars in the 1971 classic, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. HANDOUT

Shed a tear (or five) with this woeful film, E.T. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bring back the '80s with this pre-teen hit, The Goonies. HANDOUT

Flicks for Father's Day

Screentime. Gather up the kids and take in classics from your time

CLAIRE GAGNÉ
For Metro

Flash back and entice the kids with the original of classic sci-fi movie, Star Wars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/20TH CENTURY-FOX FILM CORPORATION

Looking for something other than Frozen? Round in the kids and cuddle up with one of these classics from your childhood.

ROBIN HOOD

What's not to love about a movie in which all the main characters are animals? In this 1973 Disney-animated film, Robin Hood is a sly fox; Maid Marian, the vixen; and Little John, a big cuddly bear. Although not considered one of Disney's hits — and the first film to be produced without Walt Disney's involvement, following his death in 1966 — do the kids really care about character depth and quality animation?

Ages 3 and up. Rated G.

THE MUPPET MOVIE (AND ITS SEQUELS)

If your kids liked Muppets Most Wanted (2014) or The Muppets (2011), introduce them to a little old-school Kermit. The original, called The Muppet Movie, came out in 1979 and sees Kermit the Frog journey across the U.S. to find fame in Hollywood, picking up new-found pals Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear and others along the way. The Great Muppet Caper was released in 1981, while Muppets Take Manhattan came out in 1984.

Ages 5 and up. Rated G.

YELLOW SUBMARINE

You'll enjoy this 1968 Beatles movie for the music and your kids will love the animated, colourful, rambling adventure of the Beatles as they board the Yellow Submarine to travel to Pepperland and save it from the Blue Meanies, who have drained the underwater paradise of music and colour. Despite the psychedelic look of the animation and suggestions that songs such as "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" refer to drugs, there are no drugs or alcohol in this movie.

Ages 5 and up. Rated G.

WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Kids will cheer when poor boy Charlie is victorious at the end of this movie, based on the Roald Dahl classic book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. There are some suspenseful scenes, but this 1971 version is less dark than the 2005 Tim Burton/Johnny Depp release. It's worth it for the "fizzy lifting drink" scene alone, where Charlie and his grandfather begin to float after partaking, and have to burp themselves down to avoid getting sucked into a fan.

Ages 6 and up. Rated G.

STAR WARS

It's not like your kids haven't been begging you to watch it anyway. With Star Wars themed tableware, toothbrushes and board books, the characters and storylines of the two trilogies are entrenched in the imaginations of young kids today. Start with the original (Episode IV: A New Hope, 1977) and have a remote control handy to fast-forward through the scary parts.

Ages 7 and up. Rated PG (Warning: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith is rated PG 13).

E.T.: THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

Who doesn't remember the heartwarming story of E.T., the alien who is left behind on earth by his fellow aliens and befriended by 10-year-old Elliott. Your kids will identify with Elliott and his comrades, and you'll be transported back to a time in your life when everything seemed simpler. Warning: You just might cry in front of your kids.

Ages 7 and up. Rated PG.

THE PRINCESS BRIDE

Sooo many iconic lines: "Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." "Inconceivable!" The Princess Bride is a fairy-tale with something for everyone — "fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love and miracles." The young boy (Fred Savage, star of the iconic TV show, The Wonder Years), whose grandfather reads him the story, becomes enraptured by the story of good versus evil, friendship and sacrifice and so will your kids. Of note: Princess Buttercup is played by Robin Wright from House of Cards.

Ages 8 and up. Rated PG.

THE GOONIES

Ask a 30-something dad in Toronto what movie they remember liking as a kid, and The Goonies comes up time and time again. And it's no wonder - in this action-packed adventure film, a group of misfit kids sets off on a real-life pirate treasure hunt. Rumour has it The Goonies II is in the works, making this a perfect time to expose your tweens to the original.

Ages 9 and up. Rated PG.

Enviro Dad blogger, Eric Novak, of Ajax, Ont., and his children share time together, creating a big splash in their backyard pool. CONTRIBUTED

Celebrate dad differently

Memories. Father's Day may mean finding a new way to honour or remember your loved one

ASTRID
VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Perhaps you don't have a father in your life, but you do have an uncle who helped raise you Or maybe, sadly, this is the first year spent without dad by your side. When it comes to celebrating Father's Day this year, who says it has to be a dads-only event? Here are some tips to toast dads-of-all-stripes, whether they're with you, in-person, or not.

Think about a donation

Looking for a way to honour your father? Perhaps make a donation to his favourite charity in his memory or plant a tree either in your yard or in a memorial forest. Or, if your father lived with a chronic illness, consider raising money and running a race in his memory, while supporting a good cause.

Take in an experience

Try reliving an experience with your beloved relative. "Growing up, for many years my father was never in my life," says Eric Novak, blogger and editor of envirodad.com. "I had a Big Brother through the United Way and an uncle who filled in those roles. And for my Big Brother and me, our favourite thing was to go to Exhibition Stadium and sit in the grandstands and eat steamed foot-long hot dogs."

Be creative

When celebrating a unique father-figure in your life, dad blogger Ricky Shetty, a blogger with daddyblogger.com, suggests to keep your mind open. "Think of these three tips: the more personalized the better, the more creative the better, the more unique the better," says Shetty.

Write a letter

This applies to someone who is still in your life, or who has passed away. Take a bit of time to put together a letter outlining how much you appreciate them in your life and thanking them for what they've done for you. And if your father has died, don't be afraid to purchase a Father's Day card and slip it in the same envelope.

Do what feels right

The website, ourhousegrief.org — the site for the California-based Our House Grief Support Center — suggests doing something tangible to remind yourself of your parent who's long gone. Think of tapping into those memories through your senses by taking a whiff of dad's favourite cologne or ordering and devouring his favourite pizza.

Campaign. Dads speak out for their daughters

Renowned Canadian dads — from political leaders and philanthropists to musicians and sports coaches — are uniting for their daughters, backing a global initiative, Fathers Empowering Daughters. It launched Wednesday by G(irls)20 — a summit mobilizing girls around the world to become the next leaders.

The campaign celebrates the powerful force fathers can play in the advancement of their daughters, calling on dads to showcase how they've helped their daughters succeed, while encouraging daughters to tell stories about their fathers empowering them. Stories are being shared in self-recorded videos, with kick-offs from the likes of Richard Branson, Ziauddin Yousafzai (Malala's father), Chelsea Clinton and Shakira.

Those high-profile Canadians dads taking part include Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Liberal leader, Justin Trudeau, musician Sam Roberts, Blue Rodeo frontman Jim Cuddy, producer and composer David Foster and B.C. Lions coach, Wally Buono. Even the campaign's theme song — Little B — has a Canadian touch, co-written by songtress Sarah McLachlan and philanthropist and businessman Frank Guistra.

"This campaign engages men in a unique, personal and meaningful way," said Farah Mohamed, CEO of G(irls)20. "Fathers can play an important role in encouraging daughters to realize their dreams, no matter how big or small, and this Father's Day we celebrate that."

The initiative is in run-up to the G20 this August, where G(irls)20 will address how to economically engage and empower girls and women around the world to achieve their goals. Visit fathersempoweringdaughters.org. METRO

YOU'RE NO BARTENDER
but
YOU CAN MAKE
ANY FIZZ TASTE BETTER.
Serve in a jar with a pretty straw.
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Add your favourite flavour.
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to give the gift of better bubbles.

Los Angeles Kings captain Dustin Brown has stepped up in the playoffs after an underwhelming regular season. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Kings captain catching second wind in playoffs

Dustin Brown. Forward continues to command respect of teammates despite poor season

Dustin Brown is a couple of years older and might have some more grey hair than when the Los Angeles Kings won the Stanley Cup in 2012.

According to his teammates, not much else has changed about their captain.

"He's a soft-spoken guy, he's not going to be rah-rah-rah," defenceman Willie Mitchell said. "He has his own identity, and that's what I really respect about him is that he doesn't try and be someone he isn't. He's just himself and goes about it that way."

When Brown didn't produce up to expectations in the regular season — 15 goals and 12 assists in 79 games — Los Angeles finished third in the Pacific Division.

In these playoffs, though, Brown had five goals and eight assists going into Wednesday night's Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final. That's not the stuff of Conn Smythe Trophy fame, but it's one piece of the Kings' post-season run.

Wednesday's game

The Rangers extended the series with a 2-1 win in Game 4. Go to metronews.ca for the story.

Coach Darryl Sutter said he and Brown discussed the subpar regular season and managed to put it into the proper perspective.

"The only thing that made the difference then was making the playoffs. Where he was going to make the difference was for our team to make the playoffs and then be a forceful player at playoff time," Sutter said. "The type of person he is, that's deep down what he wanted. Nobody was more dissatisfied with his regular season than Brownie was."

To a man, Brown's teammates know the 29-year-old didn't have the best season.

Winger Justin Williams said Brown "could have wilted and went away and said, 'This isn't my year, pack his bag.' Instead he said, 'I'm going to do this, play whatever role I need to play and help this team.'" THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL labour dispute

League, players to vote on new deal

The CFL and its players will conduct their ratification votes on a new labour deal later this week.

Independent league sources requesting anonymity say the players will vote Thursday while the CFL's board of governors will do so Friday.

The CFL and CFL Players' Association agreed to a five-year contract Saturday. However, many players have spoken out against the new deal which calls for a $5-million salary cap, well below the CFLPA's opening demand of $6.24 million.

The CFL also got a major concession from the union on the gross revenue formula that would trigger the renegotiation of the cap or entire collective agreement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Jays' division lead dwindles with loss

The Toronto Blue Jays dropped a 7-2 decision to the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday, with only a pair of late runs preventing a second straight shutout.

Josh Willingham belted a two-run homer in the first inning and Kendrys Morales hit a bases-clearing double in the seventh as the Twins took the rubber game of the three-game series. Twins starter Phil Hughes (7-2) struck out nine and allowed seven hits over seven shutout innings.

With the loss, Toronto's lead atop the division standings fell to five games over Baltimore and New York.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Danny Green of the Spurs goes to the basket against Chris Bosh of the Heat during Game 3 of the NBA Finals on Tuesday in Miami. Scan the image with your Metro News app to find out the origins of players on one of the most culturally diverse teams in the NBA, the Spurs. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

Miami coach forces Heat to relive Game 3 blowout

LeBron James has learned an important lesson during his journey from 19-year-old rookie to two-time NBA champion: Never talk back to the coach during a film session.

"Let him make his point, whether he's right or wrong, and you live with it and move on," James said.

Especially when the coach has as much to show his players as Erik Spoelstra did to James and the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

Miami's defence didn't offer much resistance early in Game 3 of the NBA Finals; the San Antonio Spurs played like they were on the court by themselves. San Antonio made 19 of its first 21 shots and shot a finals-record 75.8 per cent in the first half of a 111-92 victory.

TV numbers

14.9M

The NBA Finals is averaging 14,921,000 viewers per game.

Just like last year, Game 3 was a blowout that left the Heat facing a 2-1 deficit. Miami came back to win the series, so nobody was overreacting to what happened Tuesday, especially since the Spurs themselves don't expect to shoot that way again. But the Heat have things to clean up before Game 4 on Thursday, or they risk going back to San Antonio facing the end of their title reign.

"For us, we have to make the adjustments," James said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High ticket sales for World Cup

'Unprecedented number.'
Priciest seats remain available for popular teams, lower ticket sales for games between poorer countries

Tickets remain available for more than 15 World Cup matches just a day before the tournament opener, including some involving Germany, Italy and France.

FIFA said it already sold more than 2.9 million tickets, but some were still on sale Wednesday.

There were plenty of tickets for matches between less-prominent nations, including Bosnia-Iran and Greece-Ivory Coast, but it was also still possible to attend games with some of the more traditional teams. Fans could still get tickets on FIFA's website for matches such as Germany-Ghana, Switzerland-France and Italy-Uruguay.

Only tickets for the highest-priced categories remained available for the better matches.

Tickets for the July 13 tournament final at the Maracana Stadium were hard to get. A crowd of nearly 80,000 is expected at the decisive match.

FIFA said last week that nearly 1,400 people were told to change their tickets because they were handed out before work in some of the stadiums was completed. It said seating configurations changed after technical teams established exactly where the media tribunes and broadcast equipment had to be placed in each of the 12 venues.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ticket sales

FIFA has estimates it will sell a total of 3.1 million tickets to 2014 World Cup games. Of those sold so far:

- 60% have gone to Brazilians
- 197,000 to Americans
- 2.2 million have been sold directly via FIFA.com

Player Spotlight

NEYMAR

The Brazilian player, in his first World Cup experience, is the hope of Brazil to win this tournament.

TECHNICAL DATA

FULL NAME	Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior
NICKNAME	Neymar
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH	Feb. 5 1992, Mogi das Cruzes, Sao Paulo.
AGE	22
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT	1.75 m, 65 kg
SKILLFUL LEG	Right, but he doesn´t have troubles playing with the other one.

44 performances with the Brazil National Team

Number 10

27 Goals

SOCCER DATA

PROFESSIONAL DEBUT	March 7 2009, Santos FC
CLUB TEAM	FC Barcelona, since July 2013
POSITION	Winger

ACHIEVEMENTS

THE BEST. He was chosen in 2011 and 2012 as the best player of South America.

CONFEDERATIONS CUP. He lifted the trophy in 2013 after Brazil beat Spain 3-0. He was also MVP.

COPA LIBERTADORES. In 2011, he won South America's equivalent of Champions League with Santos. He was the MVP of the tournament. In 2012 won the South American Recup.

FAST AND SKILFUL, Neymar is known for his collection of dribbles. An explosive dodge has also been great scorer many times, in the different championships he played with Santos.

METRO WORLD NEWS GRAPH:NANCY MACEDO / TEXT: FELIPE HERRERA

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2014 FIFA WORLD CUP BRAZIL™

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

GROUP MATCHES

TODAY
BRAZIL VS. CROATIA
3:30PM ET

FRI. JUN 13
MEXICO VS. CAMEROON
11:30AM ET

SPAIN VS. NETHERLANDS
2:30PM ET

CHILE VS. AUSTRALIA
5:30PM ET

SAT. JUN 14
COLOMBIA VS. GREECE
11:30AM ET

URUGUAY VS. COSTA RICA
2:30PM ET

ENGLAND VS. ITALY
5:30PM ET

CÔTE D'IVOIRE VS. JAPAN
8:30PM ET

SUN. JUN 15
SWITZERLAND VS. ECUADOR
11:30AM ET

FRANCE VS. HONDURAS
2:30PM ET

ARGENTINA VS. BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
5:30PM ET

MON. JUN 16
GERMANY VS. PORTUGAL
11:30AM ET

IRAN VS. NIGERIA
2:30PM ET

GHANA VS. USA
5:30PM ET

TUE. JUN 17
BELGIUM VS. ALGERIA
11:30AM ET

BRAZIL VS. MEXICO
2:30PM ET

RUSSIA VS. KOREA REPUBLIC
5:30PM ET

WED. JUN 18
AUSTRALIA VS. NETHERLANDS
11:30AM ET

SPAIN VS. CHILE
2:30PM ET

CAMEROON VS. CROATIA
5:30PM ET

THUR. JUN 19
COLOMBIA VS. CÔTE D'IVOIRE
11:30AM ET

URUGUAY VS. ENGLAND
2:30PM ET

JAPAN VS. GREECE
5:30PM ET

FRI. JUN 20
ITALY VS. COSTA RICA
11:30AM ET

SWITZERLAND VS. FRANCE
2:30PM ET

HONDURAS VS. ECUADOR
5:30PM ET

SAT. JUN 21
ARGENTINA VS. IRAN
11:30AM ET

GERMANY VS. GHANA
2:30PM ET

NIGERIA VS. BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
5:30PM ET

SUN. JUN 22
BELGIUM VS. RUSSIA
11:30AM ET

KOREA REPUBLIC VS. ALGERIA
2:30PM ET

USA VS. PORTUGAL
5:30PM ET

MON. JUN 23
AUSTRALIA VS. SPAIN
11:30AM ET

NETHERLANDS VS. CHILE
11:30AM ET

CROATIA VS. MEXICO
3:45PM ET

CAMEROON VS. BRAZIL
3:45PM ET

TUE. JUN 24
ITALY VS. URUGUAY
11:30AM ET

COSTA RICA VS. ENGLAND
11:30AM ET

JAPAN VS. COLOMBIA
3:45PM ET

GREECE VS. CÔTE D'IVOIRE
3:45PM ET

WED. JUN 25
NIGERIA VS. ARGENTINA
11:30AM ET

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA VS. IRAN
11:30AM ET

HONDURAS VS. SWITZERLAND
3:45PM ET

ECUADOR VS. FRANCE
3:45PM ET

THU. JUN 26
USA VS. GERMANY
11:30AM ET
OR
PORTUGAL VS. GHANA
11:30AM ET

KOREA REPUBLIC VS. BELGIUM
3:45PM ET

ALGERIA VS. RUSSIA
3:45PM ET

ROUND of 16 to FINAL BEGINS SATURDAY, JUNE 28.

Visit cbc.ca/fifaworldcup for full broadcast schedule.

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GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
1. BRAZIL	1. SPAIN	1. COLOMBIA	1. URUGUAY	1. SWITZERLAND	1. ARGENTINA	1. GERMANY	1. BELGIUM
2. CROATIA	2. NETHERLANDS	2. GREECE	2. COSTA RICA	2. ECUADOR	2. BOSNIA- HERZEGOVINA	2. PORTUGAL	2. ALGERIA
3. MEXICO	3. CHILE	3. CÔTE D'IVOIRE	3. ENGLAND	3. FRANCE	3. IRAN	3. GHANA	3. RUSSIA
4. CAMEROON	4. AUSTRALIA	4. JAPAN	4. ITALY	4. HONDURAS	4. NIGERIA	4. USA	4. KOREA REPUBLIC

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CBC's dedicated website keeps visitors up-to-date on the latest news, insights and analysis from Brazil as well as connects you to live video streaming, highlights and a comprehensive broadcast schedule.

It's an unparalleled tournament that comes only once every four years. But you don't need to be a soccer diehard to enjoy the World Cup festivities that begin Thursday (Brazil vs. Croatia). Here's our breakdown of the teams, and predictions for the winners of all 8 World Cup groups:

CONTENT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, PREDICTIONS: GOALDIFFERENCE.COM

All photos from Getty Images

8 World Cup predictions

A

Brazil The Samba Kings have the momentum, the attacking flair and, of course, the home-soil advantage. **Name to know: Neymar**

Croatia Croatia scraped into the tournament, but the nation has World Cup pedigree (finishing 3rd in 1998). **Name to know: Luka Modric**

Mexico Mexico looked dead in the water in 2013, but they did enough to survive and can't be overlooked in Group A. **Name to know: Javier Hernandez (Chicharito)**

Cameroon Cameroon will be relying on veteran presence in what will likely be an entertaining battle for second place in this group. **Name to know: Samuel Eto'o**

Javier Hernandez a.k.a. Chicharito

Prediction: Brazil (odds to win group: 52.1%)

B

Spain While some have proclaimed the imminent end of Spain's dominance, this is still a team loaded with weapons. **Name to know: Andres Iniesta**

Netherlands After falling short in the World Cup final for the third time in 2010, the Oranje will be desperate for vengeance. **Name to know: Arjen Robben**

Chile Considered by many to be a dark-horse pick to make a deep run, Chile will be severely tested in a difficult Group B. **Name to know: Alexis Sanchez**

Australia Australia comes into the competition having fired former head coach Holger Osieck in October. Not much is expected from a young Socceroos squad. **Name to know: Tim Cahill**

Andres Iniesta

Prediction: Chile (odds to win group: 37.8%)

C

Colombia The squad suffered a crushing blow when star striker Radamel Falcao was ruled out, but under coach Jose Pekerman, Colombia still sits in the top 10 in the world. **Name to know: James Rodriguez**

Greece Stingy defence and winning tight games remains a defining principle for Greece, who conceded just four goals in 10 group-stage games in qualifying. **Name to know: Georgios Samaras**

Ivory Coast With a less difficult group than they faced in 2010 and Didier Drogba in his last World Cup, Ivory Coast will be hungry. **Name to know: Yaya Toure**

Yaya Toure

Japan Japan will be looking to build on a promising run to the Round of 16 in 2010. **Name to know: Keisuke Honda**

Prediction: Colombia (odds to win group: 59.2%)

D

England With a mix of hardened veterans and exciting youth, England could be a contender. **Name to know: Wayne Rooney**

Uruguay The last time the World Cup was in Brazil, in 1950, Uruguay won it all. **Name to know: Luis Suarez**

Italy Italy will have grand ambitions under manager Cesare Prandelli — but which team will show up? **Name to know: Mario Balotelli**

Costa Rica Costa Rica's faint hopes of advancing took a devastating hit when star striker Alvaro Saborio was ruled out. **Name to know: Bryan Ruiz**

Mario Balotelli

Prediction: England (odds to win group: 34.8%)

E

Switzerland The Swiss cruised through World Cup qualifying, undefeated in 10 games, and sit as one of the top-ranked teams. **Name to know: Xherdan Shaqiri**

Ecuador Ecuador still possesses the potential to cause problems for the other members of Group E. **Name to know: Antonio Valencia**

France The French team just squeaked into the tournament, and will be missing Franck Ribery. Even so, the team has star power. **Name to know: Karim Benzema**

Honduras Los Catrachos are still searching for their first World Cup victory. **Name to know: Carlo Costly**

Karim Benzema

Prediction: France (odds to win group: 44.7%)

F

Argentina Argentina are driven, deep and dangerous. **Name to know: Lionel Messi**

Bosnia and Herzegovina The only World Cup debutante at this year's tournament, Bosnia has made history just by qualifying. **Name to know: Edin Dzeko**

Iran Under former Portugal manager Carlos Queiroz, Iran ground out plenty of tight games during their qualifying campaign. **Name to know: Javad Nekounam**

Nigeria Though winless in their last two appearances, the Super Eagles come into Brazil riding an undefeated World Cup qualifying campaign. **Name to know: John Obi Mikel**

Lionel Messi

Prediction: Argentina (odds to win group: 47.2%)

G

Germany Germany has injury concerns for a few of its stars, but remain favourites in the apparent Group of Death. **Name to know: Miroslav Klose**

Portugal Portugal sits at No. 4 in the world rankings and has loads of potential. **Name to know: Cristiano Ronaldo**

Ghana In 2010, the Black Stars went farther in the World Cup than any other African team in history. Many of the key performers from that run are back in 2014. **Name to know: Asamoah Gyan**

United States The Americans will be cast as outsiders to advance. **Name to know: Michael Bradley (of Toronto FC)**

Michael Bradley

Prediction: Germany (odds to win group: 50.9%)

H

Belgium Favoured by many to make a definitive stamp on the tournament, Belgium is talented everywhere on the field. **Name to know: Eden Hazard**

Algeria Algeria comes in packed with young players who ply their trade for notable European clubs. **Name to know: Madjid Bougherra**

Russia Under well-travelled Fabio Capello, Russia looks poised to put on a show. **Name to know: Igor Akinfeev**

South Korea The Taeguk Warriors are hardly on a roll, with wobbly form over the past 12 months and no true global stars. **Name to know: Lee Chung-Yong**

Eden Hazard

Prediction: Russia (odds to win group: 40.6%)

Toronto fans gear up for World Cup

Waving flags. Soccer souvenir business booming for Saleh Bros.

Zam Zam Saleh likes to mess with his customers, and when they're as passionate as the soccer fans he meets by the hundreds every day, it's pretty easy to do.

"Fanatics ... sometimes when someone asks for an Italian flag, I'll reach for a Portuguese one instead," Saleh says with a devilish laugh.

Saleh and his brother Hussein, who were born and raised in Iraq, have set up their soccer souvenir stand at the corner of Dufferin Street and Davenport Road in Toronto for every major international tournament for almost 20 years.

Quoted

"We're surrounded by all kinds (of) ethnic groups.... So it is truly the hub of multiculturalism."

Rocco Mastrangelo of Cafe Diplomatico on College Street

The big bright flags flap in the wind, and lick at the cars driving by. It's one-stop shopping for soccer fans. There are balls and car flags and full national team kits. Thirty-five dollars will get you a car hood cover in your country's flag.

Canada, of course, isn't in the 2014 FIFA World Cup, which kicks off Thursday in Brazil. Canada has made just one World Cup appearance, in 1986 in Mexico City.

But that hasn't stopped Canadian soccer fans from gearing up for the sport's biggest party, which runs for five weeks culminating in the final on July 13 — especially in Toronto, one of the world's most multicultural cities. Statistics Canada reported in 2011 that 48.6 per cent of Toronto residents are foreign-born.

Iraq also isn't in the World Cup, so Saleh cheers "mostly for Portugal, because of the neighbourhood (in which he lives and works)."

Hussein, who runs the outdoor soccer shop, is getting as many as 700 customers a day and barely has time to pause and talk between restocking the car flags. Saleh runs their second store, inside the nearby Galleria Shopping Centre, and by lunchtime on a weekday, he's already seen 140 customers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Final pre-tournament stretch

South Korean national soccer team players stretch during a training session in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, on Wednesday. South Korea plays in Group H of the World Cup and gets its first taste of action on Tuesday against Russia. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zebra from Ontario

Canadian ref ready for scrutiny

Joe Fletcher knows there is nowhere for him to hide in Brazil.

As an assistant referee at the World Cup, every decision the 37-year-old chartered accountant from St. Catharines, Ont., makes will come under scrutiny.

It's soccer's biggest stage, before its biggest audience and will unfold before a plethora of cameras.

"Everything will get seen. Nothing will get missed," said Fletcher.

The Canadian official understands and accepts the pressure. Officials strive for years to get on FIFA's international list and then earn selection to major tournaments. The World Cup is the biggest stage for the sport.

It helps being part of a team — Fletcher and fellow assistant Sean Hurd have worked with referee Mark Geiger since 2011. The Canadian-American-American trio has already officiated at the 2013 FIFA Club World Cup, the 2012 Olympics and the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup, among other tournaments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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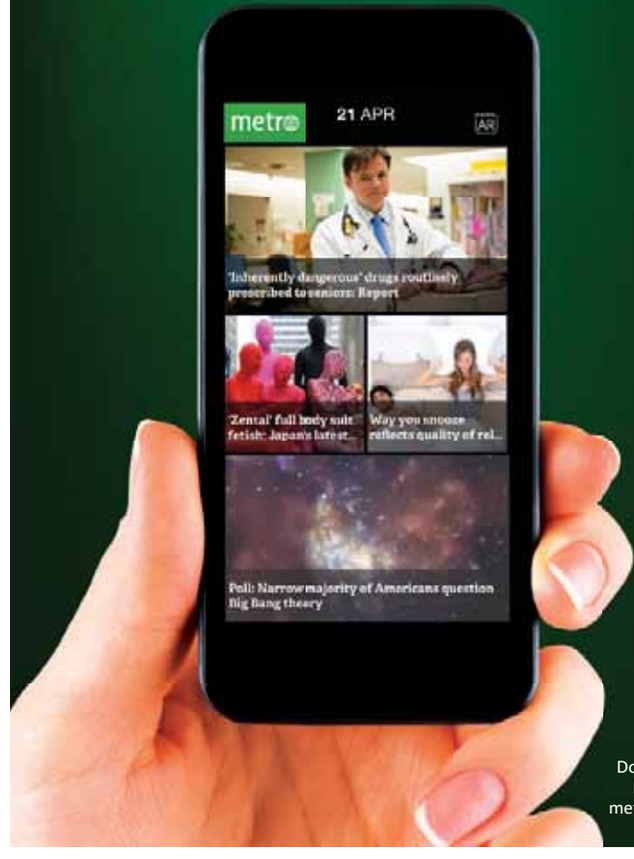
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may be doing well financially but there is a danger you will take one risk too many and undo much of the good work you have done in recent weeks. Self-belief is great but too much can be self-defeating.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The planets warn you may do something so out of character today or tomorrow that even those who know you well will be shocked. Hopefully it won't damage your reputation.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Jupiter in the main financial area of your chart suggests you could come into money today but it also warns you could lose it as quickly as it arrives. Don't let rivals play on your greed.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
A friend will offer you great advice but because it isn't what you were hoping to hear, you may ignore it. Almost certainly tomorrow's full moon will make sure you regret it, so don't let your ego get in the way of facts.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may be tempted to push yourself both physically and mentally, but is that such a good idea? You are already moving fast and living close to the edge. One wrong step could send you over the precipice.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you want to get the most from the day focus your energy in a single direction and put less important matters on the back burner for a while. If you crave success you have to be ruthless.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are attaching too much importance to issues that only a few days ago would have meant nothing. Why that should be is impossible to say but you need to ease up a bit.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The approaching full moon warns your big ideas need to be brought down to earth. Inject some reality into your thinking over the next few days. You won't get rich on dreams alone.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A lot of good things have been happening but tomorrow's full moon in your sign will confront you with an issue that is unlikely to have a happy ending. Decide what's best for you and those you love, then act accordingly.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is a danger that you will start believing that nothing bad can happen. That kind of thinking is guaranteed to set off a cosmic chain of events designed to remind you that few things are written in stone.

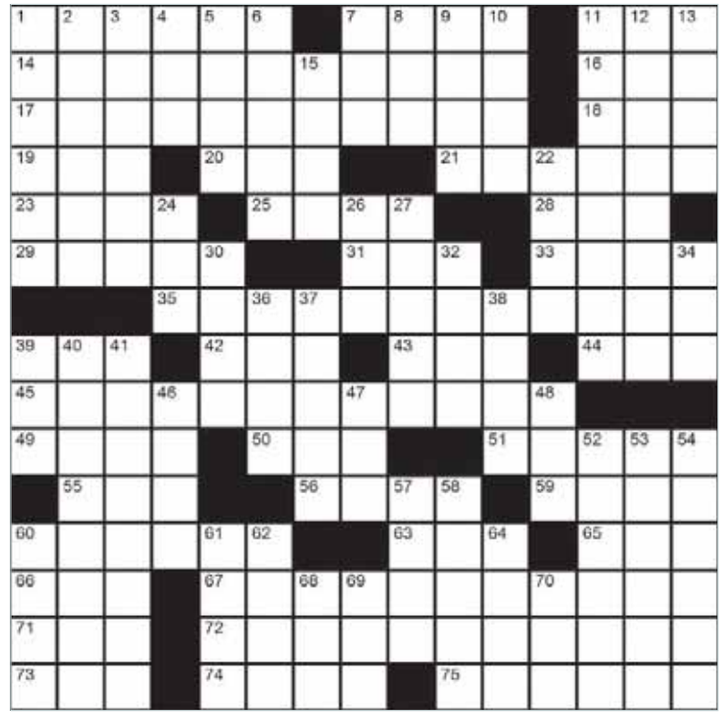
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't let anyone tell you that you do not deserve your good fortune, because luck has nothing to do with it. The fact is you deserve every good thing now coming your way.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There are a lot of things going on behind the scenes and with tomorrow's new moon you could find yourself involved in plots and conspiracies. Make a point of taking none of it too seriously. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across

1. Reversible patterned fabric
7. Poetic foot
11. Utah's cap.
14. June 12th, 2014 in Ontario this year: 2 wds.
16. Golf club part
17. Hits for this Canadian band include a cover of The Rolling Stones song at #35-Across
18. Ms. Landers
19. Beatles: "_ __ Mine"
20. Eastern prov.
21. Become soggy: 2 wds.
23. Survive
25. Saturate
28. '_' __ in Edmonton
29. Loosen
31. Mr. Howard
33. City haze
35. As per #17-Across, it goes: "Down to me, the change has come...": 3 wds.
39. Panda symbol org.
42. Mr. Knotts
43. Honey maker
44. Parisian possessive
45. Nova Scotia: Eglise Sainte-Marie is North America's largest what?: 2 wds.
49. 'Switch' suffix
50. Blinker
51. Emcees
55. Mil. titles
56. Millennium divs.
59. "Magnum, P.I." setting
60. Swedish tennis great Stefan
63. Old high note
65. Mai __ (Cocktail)
66. Here: Spanish
67. Tailoring tasks
71. __-de-sac
72. Songbirds listed as 'Threatened' on Ontario's Species at Risk list, Eastern __
73. Monogram of the horror author (b.1890 - d.1937) who created the monster Cthulhu
74. Fasteners
75. Actor Gary

Down

1. "I Love Lucy", A __ Production
2. Director Robert
3. "Not the __ hint of a..."
4. High card
5. Pace
6. Sky high toys
7. 'Benedict' suffix
8. Li'l court prosecutor
9. Ms. Helgenberger
10. Memory unit
11. BC: Granite monolith in Squamish, __ Chief
12. Elvis: "Are You __ Tonight?"
13. Penny
15. "Love Rollercoaster" by The __ Players
22. Musician/radio personality John
24. Ancient war god
26. Coming-in-plane, e.g.
27. Dried seaweed
30. Michael __ (The Neverending Story author)
32. Big Apple denizen
34. Theatrical monogram
36. Exhausted
37. Britannica, e.g.
38. __-savvy
39. Vince McMahon's org.
40. 2014 FIFA __ __ Brazil
41. As per #40-Down, the second 'F' of FIFA
46. Amount of medicine
47. "__ Haw"
48. Owl's chirp
52. Enlightenment, in Zen Buddhism
53. "I appreciate that"
54. Geneva's country, in French
57. Roman ruler
58. Deli side orders
60. Per
61. Highway exit
62. Hilarity
64. Mythical Hun king
68. Identify
69. Mr. Begley Jr.'s
70. Singer Janis

Yesterday's Crossword

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

6		1		5				
			4				8	
	5			2		7		
9		3	6		2	5		
	7						9	
		4	7		9	3		2
		5		8			2	
	3				1			
				7		8		3

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	7	2	8	1	9	4	3
3	2	1	4	9	5	6	7	8
8	9	4	3	7	6	1	2	5
2	8	5	6	4	7	3	1	9
7	6	9	1	5	3	4	8	2
1	4	3	8	2	9	7	5	6
5	3	8	9	1	4	2	6	7
9	1	2	7	6	8	5	3	4
4	7	6	5	3	2	8	9	1

Today
25°/15°
Thundershowers
40%

Friday
23°/12°
Showers
40%

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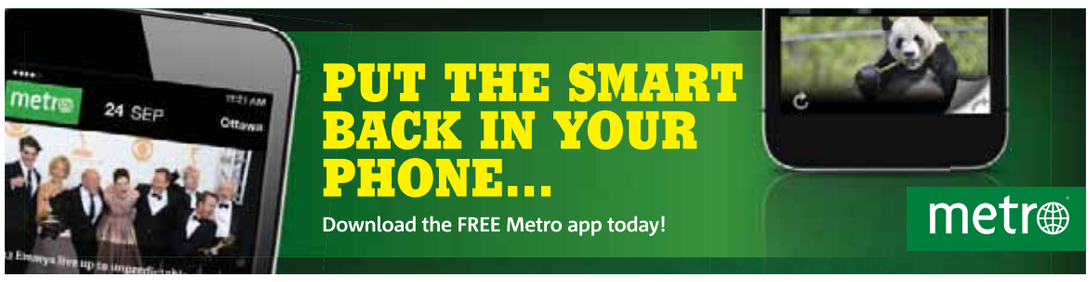
TWN incorporates MSC data



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HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.6L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦
Selling Price: $25,380

2014 ELANTRA L

OWN IT FOR **$78** BI-WEEKLY WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR 90 MONTHS + **$0** DOWN + **0*** PAYMENTS UNTIL AUGUST +

$0 AT THE PUMP FOR UP TO 90 DAYS‡ VALUE OF $425

ELANTRA L MANUAL. **SELLING PRICE: $15,305**
$2,325 PRICE ADJUSTMENTΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION, LEVIES, AND ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

HWY: 5.8L/100 KM
CITY: 8.5L/100 KM▼

SE w/ Tech model shown♦
Selling Price: $28,530

2014 ELANTRA GT

OWN IT FOR **$96** BI-WEEKLY WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR 90 MONTHS + **$0** DOWN + **0*** PAYMENTS UNTIL AUGUST

+ $0 AT THE PUMP FOR UP TO 90 DAYS‡ VALUE OF $500

ELANTRA GT MANUAL.
SELLING PRICE: $18,780
$1,400 PRICE ADJUSTMENTΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION, LEVIES, AND ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM▼

GLS model shown♦
Selling Price: $20,530

2014 ACCENT 4 DOOR L

OWN IT FOR **$68** BI-WEEKLY WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR 90 MONTHS + **$0** DOWN + **0*** PAYMENTS UNTIL AUGUST

+ $0 AT THE PUMP FOR UP TO 90 DAYS‡ VALUE OF $425

ACCENT L 4-DOOR MANUAL.
SELLING PRICE: $13,355
$1,825 PRICE ADJUSTMENTΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION, LEVIES, AND ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HWY: 7.2L/100 KM
CITY: 10.0L/100 KM▼

2.4L Limited AWD model shown♦
Selling Price: $35,495

2014 TUCSON GL FWD

OWN IT FOR **$129** BI-WEEKLY WITH **2.9%†** FINANCING FOR 90 MONTHS + **$0** DOWN + **0*** PAYMENTS UNTIL AUGUST

+ $0 AT THE PUMP FOR UP TO 90 DAYS‡ VALUE OF $600

TUCSON 2.0L GL FWD MANUAL.
SELLING PRICE: $22,495
$900 PRICE ADJUSTMENTΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION, LEVIES, AND ALL APPLICABLE CHARGES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

Dealers may charge additional fees for administration of up to $499. Charges may vary by Dealer.

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5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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